

Hafa Adai!

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\$1

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FOR SAIPAN.



TOYOTA



HERE FOR LIFE

AK Saipan breaks ground on new dealership

» **Company vows \$23M, 43,800-sq.-ft. facility will be environmentally friendly**

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios best characterized it as a "welcome change" to the news of the past couple of weeks during Friday's groundbreaking of Atkins Kroll's new \$23-million, 43,800-square-foot AK Saipan Toyota Lexus Showroom and Service Center in Puerto Rico.

See AK on Page 4

MARK RABAGO

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, sixth from left, and Inchcape managing director for South Asia and Pacific Alex Hammett, seventh from left, lead the groundbreaking ceremony for the new \$23-million, 43,800-square-foot AK Saipan Toyota Lexus Showroom and Service Center last Friday in Puerto Rico.

Bill to delay 'touchback' rule for three years is introduced

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

D elegate Gregorio Kili-li C. Sablan (D-MP) introduced Tuesday a legislation that delays for three years the "touchback provision" of the Northern Marianas Islands U.S. Workforce Act, Public Law 115-218.

Sablan's legislation, H.R. 1420, seeks to modify the requirement for foreign workers in the CNMI—called Commonwealth-Only Transitional



Sablan

Oil giant Saudi Aramco has profits of \$161B in 2022

By JON GAMBRELL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Oil giant Saudi Aramco reported Sunday its profits surged to \$161 billion last year off higher crude prices, a record result for an energy firm crucial to

the kingdom's economy.

The firm, known formally as the Saudi Arabian Oil Co., said in its annual report that the profit represented "its highest annual profits as a listed company." That came off the back of energy prices rising after Russia launched

See OIL on Page 4

DPL terminates Rota Resort lease agreement

» **For abandonment of premises, non-payment of \$639,879 lease**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has terminated the 1989 lease agreement with the Rota Resort and Country Club for alleged abandonment of the premises and non-payment of \$639,879 in lease and

interest fees.

Acting DPL secretary Teresita A. Santos sent last Wednesday a notice of termination and notices of violation to Hee Kyun Cho of the Rota Resort LLC, which

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'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Days until 'touchback rule' takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

201

INSIDE



BUSINESS

United Airlines launches a special 55th anniversary fare sale on its route to Japan from Saipan.

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Knowing when to nap and providing yourself with a good environment will produce the best benefits.

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LIFE & STYLE

Ex-Vice President Mike Pence criticizes ex-President Donald Trump for his role in the Jan. 6 riot.

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Local

Man sued for non-payment of lease and neglecting residence

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

A couple has filed a lawsuit in Superior Court against a local businessman who allegedly breached his lease agreement for failing to make payments,

PUA applications due before March 27, 2023

The CNMI Department of Labor would like to notify the public that both Initial Applications and Weekly Certification Forms for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program will no longer be accepted by the Department effective March 27, 2023.

Additionally, the department would like to clarify the following:

- Initial Applications and Weekly Certification Forms previously submitted to the department that are still un-

and leaving the residence in a state of disrepair after the lease was terminated.

Former Supreme Court chief justice Jose Dela Cruz and his wife, Rita Dela Cruz, are suing Gabriel F. Boyer, a businessman on Saipan, al-

leging breach of contract and unjust enrichment.

According to the lawsuit, Boyer is accused of not paying rent pursuant to a lease agreement, and for surrendering the residence in a state of disrepair.

The couple, through attorney Robert T. Torres, is asking the court to issue an order awarding them damages in the amount of \$58,958.11 for un-

paid rent, cost of repair of the premises, and cost to replace missing office furniture.

The residence in dispute is the Rita Building in Garapan.

The suit states that on Sept. 16, 2009, Boyer and the Dela Cruzes executed a lease of improved real property for the premises, with a lease term of 35 years commencing on Oct. 1, 2008, and ending on Sept. 30, 2044, at a rate of \$3,000

per month with incremental increases of 10% for each five-year period following the initial five years of the lease.

The plaintiffs allege that Boyer failed to pay any rent for the months of December 2020 through April 2021, totaling \$18,150.

A clause within the lease agreement states that the plaintiffs can unilaterally terminate the lease upon non-payment of rental when due and within 15 days of a notice of default and

failure to cure, or within 30 days of a notice of default for breach or default.

Boyer was served with a notice of default of lease agreement on Jan. 25, 2021.

Subsequently, on March 23, 2021, the plaintiffs issued a notice of termination of lease agreement that was recorded in the *Commonwealth Recorder* on April 19, 2021.

Boyer surrendered the premises in April 2021.

See MAN on Page 4

Corrections doubles down on austerity measures

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The new acting Department of Corrections commissioner is doubling down on austerity measures at the department in hopes of saving the government over \$40,000 each month.

With the department reportedly overspending its budget by over \$1.6 million last fiscal year, acting Department of Corrections commissioner Anthony Torres aims to implement strict cost-cutting measures to save money for the government while ensuring his staff don't lose their jobs.

"There's challenges and

concerns, but I'm well aware and I'm doing my best to address them. I've done some things that were probably unpopular, but I needed to do them to address our budget issues. I don't want to have to let people go. I want people to keep their jobs. I'm thinking of my staff as well as ensuring their safety as well as the safety of our inmates," he said.

DOC currently has over 200 personnel and most of these officers were accumulating over 100 hours in overtime by working 12- to 16-hour shifts under the

previous leadership. Torres said he hopes to address this by launching another corrections academy as well as buckling down on overtime hours.

"As you can see, we are in dire need of an academy to get started. I know with the budget and cost-cutting measures, [it'll be hard]. In my first few weeks at DOC, I took it into my own hands and I've restricted overtime to shift operations only. This means sergeants and above are required to get approval from me on overtime. Even then, I will only grant it if it's absolutely necessary," he said.

"With the overtime situation, I've tasked a scheduling committee to devise a plan to decrease the overtime for our line officers. That's coming soon. We're looking at over 38 hours in overtime for each officer dropping down to six to eight hours with the limited staff we

have now," Torres added.

On top of cutting back on overtime, the acting commissioner has also grounded most of DOC's vehicles and is lifting non-contact visitation.

"I've grounded 80% of our vehicles. With programming as well, this week I'm going to start lifting visitation for non-contact. It took me time to get there because there were security concerns I wanted to address. The first two days of walking the facility there were a lot of concerns so I did everything in my power to get a team together to address those issues," he said.

Overall, with the cost-cutting measures he will implement, Torres hopes to save the government over \$40,000 each month.

"I'm getting really creative and thinking outside the box to save our government some money. With the cost-cutting measures we are putting in place, we're looking at saving our government over \$40,000 a month in expenditures," he said.

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House resolution honors Kaipat's contributions to the CNMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives presented Thursday a commemorative resolution to the family of the late former representative Jacinta "Cinta" Matagolai Kaipat to honor and commend her for her "relentless dedication and selfless contributions to the CNMI."

Commemorative Resolution 23-1 also extends the Legislature's condolences to Kaipat's bereaved family on her untimely passing.

Kaipat passed away on Feb. 22, 2023, reportedly due to cardiac arrest. She was 61.

Rep. Roy A. Ada (R-Saipan), who introduced the commemorative resolution, said during the presentation in the House chamber that Kaipat was loved by many people in the Marianas and in the region.

Ada described her as a strong advocate for indigenous rights and for preservation of lands and environmental protection.

Among Kaipat's distinguished accomplishments include being the first Re-faluwash woman to become a lawyer in 1997, becoming a member of the House of Representatives representing Precinct 1, and as a founder of the environmental Pagan Watch, which largely campaigned against a military plan to use the island of Pagan as a training ground.

"We would like to present the family with this commemorative resolution for all her dedication to the CNMI," Ada said.

Ada's family and relatives were present during the presentation.

Kaipat's brother, Augustin "Gus" Kaipat, said they are happy that House members put some time into adopting the commemorative resolution.

"It means a lot to us," Augustin Kaipat said.

He said that, for their family, Jacinta Kaipat is not gone and that if she's here he knows she would continue to work for the people and to continue to fight for the CNMI's natural resources.

"Because if you care about land, it means you care for the people," he said.

The commemorative resolution states that, as a young girl, Kaipat took a leap of faith when she traveled thousands of miles across the globe to Evanston, Illinois, where she would complete high school at Evanston Township High School in 1979.

Kaipat went to DePaul University where she obtained her bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in law, with the highest honors.

She then attended the University of Minnesota Law School in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she obtained her juris doctorate in 1997.

In 1995, in the midst of pursuing her juris doctorate, she served as a member of the legal team of the 3rd CNMI Constitutional Convention to oversee the legal sufficiency of constitutional amendments offered by the delegates.

From 1995-1998, she co-produced and co-directed the film *Liewela: Navigators' Children*, a critically-ac-



Rep. Roy A. Ada (R-Saipan) reads a statement in presenting to the family of the late former representative Jacinta "Cinta" M. Kaipat a House commemorative resolution to honor and commend Kaipat's selfless contributions to the CNMI, in the House chamber last Thursday. Also in the photo is House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) holding the commemorative resolution, other House members, and family and relatives of Kaipat.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

claimed cultural documentary tracing the history and path of the Carolinian people who emigrated to the Marianas using only the natural elements to navigate.

From 1999 to 2006, Kaipat served as an administrative hearing officer for the CNMI Department of Labor.

On Nov. 5, 2005, she was elected to the House of Representatives 15th Legislature, as one of the representatives of Precinct 1.

From February 2008 to February 2011, she was appointed to serve as deputy Labor sec-

etary, where she led the department's implementation of Public Law 15-108.

From September 2011 to December 2015, she served as an assistant attorney general for the Office of the Attorney General, where she served in both the Criminal and Civil divisions.

From July 2008 to March 2019, Kaipat served as a member of the Marianas Visitors Authority board. She also previously served as a member of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute board of directors in 2008, the Pagan Mining Task Force in

2006, and board of directors for Karidat in 2004, the CNMI Historic Preservation review board in 2000, and the CNMI Board of Parole in 2000.

In 1999, she worked with the residents of Tanapag village and Green Peace to force the United States and CNMI governments to address the cleanup of Tanapag's polychlorinated biphenyl contamination.

In 2002, she co-founded Pagan Watch, an organization that sought to protect the land, waters, and communities of the NMI from exploitation.

among other things.

In 2006, she founded Beautify CNMI!, a coalition of government, private sector, and community volunteers that worked together on environmental initiatives to make the CNMI a better place to live and visit.

In 2008, Kaipat was a member of the Friends of the Marianas Trench Monument, which advocated for the preservation of the waters surrounding the northern islands of Asuncion, Maug, and Farallon de Pajaros for environmental protection.

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Probable cause found to try two accused of burglary

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has found probable cause to try two persons accused of burglarizing the residence of former governor Pedro P. Tenorio.

Following a preliminary hearing last Thursday, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan found probable cause to try Mark S. Benavente and Josephine J. Pangelinan of burglarizing the residence of former governor Pedro P. Tenorio.

rio in January.

Following the hearing, both defendants were remanded back to Department of Corrections custody and were ordered to return to court on March 13, for an arraignment.

According to court documents, the caretakers of the Tenorio residence called the Department of Public Safety on Jan. 24, reporting an alleged break-in.

At the scene, officers were escorted to the westernmost side of the residence where they saw a broken

window on the second floor.

In an interview with Robert Manalo, the grounds maintenance man, he told police that he noticed a green minivan driving by the residence a couple of times several days before the break-in. He said he knew the car belonged to Benavente.

About two days before the break-in, Manalo said he noticed that the minivan was parked along the dirt road just west of the residence. Then the break-in happened.

About two weeks later, on Feb. 8,

while routinely driving around, DPS officers conducted a traffic stop on a green minivan in San Vicente. The car was later impounded and searched.

On Feb. 21, police visited Benavente and Pangelinan's residence in Chalan Kanoa.

When Pangelinan opened the door, police said they immediately noticed brand-name purses just hanging on the wall.

The next day, police acquired a search warrant for Benavente and Pangelinan's apartment and immediately executed it.

While executing the search warrant, police patted down Benavente

who allegedly was found in possession of a crystal-like substance, which later yielded positive for methamphetamine.

During the search, police managed to find multiple items that were reported missing after the burglary.

Pangelinan later admitted to being part of the burglary and also told police that Benavente broke into the house by climbing up the west wall of the house.

It was learned that Benavente allegedly invited others to steal from the Tenorio residence after they had taken what they wanted. Tenorio passed away in May 21, 2018.

OIL

From Page 1

its war on Ukraine in February 2022, with sanctions limiting the sale of Moscow's oil and natural gas in Western markets.

Aramco also hopes to increase its production to take advantage of market demand, raising the billions needed to pay for Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's plans to develop

futuristic cityscapes to pivot Saudi Arabia away from oil.

However, those plans come despite growing international concerns over the burning of fossil fuels accelerating climate change.

"Given that we anticipate oil and gas will remain essential for the foreseeable future, the risks of underinvestment in our industry are real—including contributing to higher energy prices," Saudi Aramco CEO and President Amin H. Nasser said in a statement.

Profits rose 46.5% when compared to the company's 2021 results of \$110 billion. It earned \$49 billion in 2020 when the world faced the worst of the coronavirus pandemic lockdown, travel disruptions and oil prices briefly going negative.

Aramco put its crude production at around 11.5 million barrels a day in 2022 and said it hoped to reach 13 million barrels a day by 2027.

To boost that production, it plans to spend as much as \$55 billion this

year on capital projects.

Aramco also declared a dividend of \$19.5 billion for the fourth quarter of 2022, to be paid in the first quarter of this year.

Benchmark Brent crude oil now trades around \$82 a barrel, though prices had reached over \$120 a barrel back in June. Aramco, whose fortunes hinge on global energy prices, announced a record \$42.4 billion profit in the third quarter of 2022 off the back of that price spike.

Those high prices have further strained ties between the kingdom and the United States, traditionally a security guarantor among the Gulf Arab states amid tensions with Iran. Before the midterm elections in November, the kingdom said the Biden administration sought to delay a decision by OPEC and allies including Russia to cut production that could have kept gasoline prices lower for voters—making public the typically behind-the-scenes negotiations common in the region.

AK

From Page 1

"This is the second groundbreaking event that I've attended just within the last two weeks and I look forward to more so that we can get many of these large projects, and our Commonwealth economy, moving forward," he said.

Aside from congratulating Atkins Kroll for the groundbreaking of their state-of-the-art facility, Palacios also thanked the company for always being at the forefront in the islands' development since opening shop in 1968.

"Atkins Kroll has been with our community for more than 55 years and we thank them for their continued support and partnership for all those years, not just for their service in the wholesale and automotive business, but also for their philanthropic contributions to our islands."

The groundbreaking also holds promise that bright things are indeed ahead for the CNMI, he added. "Not only will this project benefit

the future of the CNMI through the enhanced revitalization of this area, but it will also provide jobs during the construction phase and after its completion, supporting the automotive needs and the economic growth of our community, which is an important part of our daily lives."

Alex Hammett, Inchcape managing director for South Asia and Pacific, said the new facility will herald a new chapter in the company's history in the CNMI.

"Toyota has been part of the NMI for more than five decades, and now it's Lexus's turn. The new Lexus dealership will be the first of its kind on Saipan, and it is a physical manifestation of our commitment to grow our business and further invest in the NMI. This means that we will have a beautiful new dealership to showcase the latest Lexus models and be able to expand our Lexus-certified services to better serve our customers," said Hammett, who spent his formative years on Saipan and used to work as a clubmate at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

He said the new Toyota Lexus

dealership has been in the works for nearly three years.

He thanked the island community for patronizing them in the last five decades. "As we gather together to bless this land, the project, and the future success of the new Toyota Lexus dealership, we also take this time to thank our community for their support for the past 55 years! It has been our honor to serve you, and we are taking even bolder steps to plant deeper roots in the Marianas."

Hammett agrees that the new dealership will provide more employment opportunities in the CNMI. "[This] comes with the ability to provide more career opportunities from highly trained technical roles in our service center to senior management level positions. ... As we turn the soil today, let's look positively at the future and continue to work together to build up the CNMI for generations to come."

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

DPL

From Page 1

owns the resort.

Santos stated in the notice that, as provided in Article 27 of the lease agreement, DPL will, upon 15 days of written notice, enter into the premises and take possession of all buildings, fixtures, and improvements, and evict Rota Resort LLC without liability of trespass.

The lease agreement was entered into between the former Marianas Public Lands Corp. (now DPL), and the former SNM Corp. (now Rota Resort LLC) on Oct. 28, 1989.

Santos gave Cho 30 days from the receipt of the notice of termination to remit the full payment of \$639,879, which the company owes DPL in lease and interest fees from July 1, 2020, to Feb. 28, 2023.

Santos also gave Cho 30 days from receipt of the notice of termination to require Docomo Pacific (CNMI) LLC to remove its antenna, electronic equipment, and all personal property from the resort premises.

The acting DPL secretary said the lessee did not obtain DPL's prior written consent to Docomo's use of the premises, so Docomo's placement of equipment on the resort premises is a breach of the lease agreement.

Santos said it is their understanding that the lessee entered into a sublease agreement with Docomo to oc-

cupy a portion of the resort premises.

She pointed out that Article 15(a) of the lease agreement provides that, except with the prior written consent of DPL, lessee shall not sublease or transfer any part of lessee's interest in the premises or permit the premises to be used or occupied by others.

Santos said that DPL inspected the Rota Resort property on Nov. 2, 2022, and found that the premises, including the golf course and hotel buildings, were in disrepair, blocked for access with chains and padlocks, and not open for business as of that date.

Santos said that DPL's follow-up inspection on Feb. 6, 2023, found that the premises had not reopened for business since the previous inspection.

She said DPL did not authorize the closure of the resort.

The acting DPL secretary noted that Rota Resort LLC's failure to use the premises for the purposes required in Article 2 of the lease agreement for a consecutive period of 90 days without securing the written DPL consent is considered abandonment of the premises.

Santos pointed out that Article 26 of the lease agreement provides that lessee is automatically in default if lessee abandons the premises, with no requirement of written notice or opportunity to cure.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

BILL

From Page 1

Workers (CW-1)—to exit the CNMI while the renewal of their work visa is being processed.

The bill was referred to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources and Committee on the Judiciary.

The touchback provision requires CNMI employers to send CW-1 visa holders back to their home country at least every three years.

Sablan said in his his *e-kilili* newsletter over the weekend that this was problematic during the COVID-19 pandemic, when air flights were interrupted and costly and home country ingress (entry) requirements made it difficult for workers to return. U.S. Citizenship and Immigra-

tion Services did delay the touchback requirement for one year for some workers. The USCIS announcement in October 2022 said it would only count consecutive CW petitions with start dates on or after June 18, 2020, against the three-year touchback requirement. This meant that hundreds of CW-1 workers did not have to leave the CNMI until the end of their 2024 validity period.

The touchback rule was part of a broad agreement among the Marianas business community, the Commonwealth government, and a bipartisan, bicameral congressional working group that led to then-President Donald Trump signing the U.S. Workforce Act into law. Sablan said the law was intended to decrease reliance on foreign workers and encourage investment in the Marianas' own local workforce.

Sablan noted that, from 2020 to 2021, according to the report required by the U.S. Workforce Act, the number of U.S. workers employed in the Marianas held steady near 13,000. Sablan noted that the pandemic may have been largely the reason for this.

Sablan was referring to then-governor Ralph DLG Torres' CNMI ratio report for fiscal year 2022 dated Oct. 31, 2022 and submitted to Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas. Torres' report, which was prepared by the CNMI Department of Labor, provided details on the number of U.S. workers and other workers in the CNMI based on income tax filings for Tax Year 2021.

However, based on the recent numbers provided by Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the number of foreign workers have now fallen to about 8,000 to 6,000.

However, Boyer allegedly left the premises in complete disarray by stripping off all improvements and repairs from the Rita Building and neglecting to secure all facilities from looting or exposure to natural elements.

"As a result of this neglect, Rita Building was left in a state of disrepair and the structural integrity of the premises has been compro-

mised, resulting in the plaintiffs expending substantial repair costs and expenses in the amount totalling \$5,808.11," Torres said.

In addition, after further inspection of the premises, the plaintiffs allegedly discovered that the original office furniture belonging to the plaintiffs had been removed from the premises.

The office furniture has not been located, found, or returned to the plaintiffs and the estimated total cost of replacing the office furniture is \$35,000.

MAN

From Page 2

Ada visits Kagman High's maritime program

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada recently made a surprise visit to Kagman High School to observe its maritime studies program, which is being conducted by the Western Pacific Maritime Academy.

During Ada's visit, Ken-shiro Yanai, one of the school's maritime students—known as "midshipmen"—presented his newly-earned Merchant Marine Credential, which is the credential one earns through this program, allowing one to work as professional mariners on large merchant marine ships.

WPMA, a nonprofit corporation on Saipan and with maritime offices and classrooms located at Northern Marianas Technical Institute in Lower Base, is offering its U.S. Coast Guard-approved Basic Training Personal Survival Techniques, or BT-PST, course to Kagman High School students in a pilot program.

BT-PST is one of five basic training courses that qualify candidates to work on large merchant marine ships similar to those anchored off the beaches of Saipan.

Captain Dave Johansen is teaching the BT-PST course, which is a 14-hour course that teaches students the foundational knowledge and skills on how to survive disaster at sea through both written exam and practical exercises.

Knowledge includes shipboard emergency response,

types of shipboard emergencies, principles of survival at sea, understanding survival craft and equipment and techniques for abandoning ship. Practical exercises are conducted to prove skills in donning a life jacket, cold weather immersion suites, treading water, turning their clothing into flotation devises and boarding a life raft.

To date seven maritime students, including Yanai, have received their Merchant Marine Credential, or MMC.

WPMA is running pilot programs to a total of 24 midshipmen both at KHS and Da'ok Academy. By the 2023-2024 school year, WPMA expects to be expanding to all high schools in the CNMI, including Tinian and Rota. The Academy will be offering a full suite of USCG-approved maritime courses and services to the seafaring public.

WPMA's PSS maritime workforce development program steers candidates into high paying jobs in the maritime sector as entry level credentialed professional mariners as deck seamen, engineers or members of the catering department. An entry level seaman in the U.S. Merchant Marine can earn upwards of \$5,000 to \$7,000 per month through one of a number of maritime unions or military sealift command. In the wake of COVID-19, the maritime sector is experiencing a huge demand for credentialed mariners.

For further information

about the PSS programs, contact your principal and raise the subject at your PTSA meetings. For additional information on how to apply for an MMC, contact Selina Taitano at taitano@wpma.net. (*Saipan Tribune/PR*)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada visits Kagman High School to observe its maritime studies program under the Western Pacific Maritime Academy.



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INVITATION TO BID ITB23-GOV-42300005:

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023

ADA COMPLIANCE OF THE FIRST FLOOR, WALKWAY, AND RAMP OF THE PARKING OF THE CDA BUILDING

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), is soliciting sealed bids for the ADA Compliance of the First Floor, Walkway, and Ramp of the Parking of the CDA Building in San Jose, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only on **March 13, 2023** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the CDA Building located in San Jose, Saipan, CNMI at **10:00 AM ChST, March 28, 2023**. Proposers may also request to participate virtually via Zoom Meetings five (5) days prior to the meeting scheduled.

Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to Ms. Skalan Yamada at syamada.cip@gmail.com no later than **4:30 PM ChST, April 4, 2023**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 AM ChST, April 12, 2023**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIA SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas Jr., Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

Rota Chamber hosts first general membership meeting

The Rota Chamber of Commerce hosted its first general membership meeting at the Puesto Grill Conference Room on Rota on March 9, 2023, serving as an occasion to introduce the organization to the Rota business community.

The meeting, held from 2:pm to 4pm, introduced the RCC board of directors and information on the different types of membership tiers and committees under its Chamber.

Rota Chamber president Steven McCoy announced that all businesses that sign up as an RCC member will receive a 50% discount on membership dues for the year and those that are startup businesses may avail of a free membership for the first year of their establishment.

OFLC webinar on process for filing CW-1 applications for employment in the NMI

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification invites interested stakeholders to participate in a webinar that provides technical assistance and helpful tips for preparing the CW-1 Application for Prevailing Wage Determination (Form ETA-9141C) and the Application for Temporary Employment Certification (Form ETA-9142C). The webinar will provide technical assistance to employers (and authorized attorneys or agents) on how to complete and submit Forms ETA-9141C and ETA-9142C and cover some of the most pressing post-filing issues employers encounter.

The webinar will take place on March 20, 2023

The event's guest speaker, Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Kimberly Camacho, shared insights on the programs and activities of SCC, with the hope that the information shared will encourage the Rota business community to support the development of the Rota Chamber of Commerce. She said the SCC is dedicated to supporting RCC.

Together with Camacho was SCC board director Alex Sablan, who also shared with the Rota business community the importance of action that needs to be taken in regards to the "touchback" rule that will be taking effect on Sept. 30, 2023, when select foreign workers will be required to exit the CNMI before the re-

newal of work permits could be processed.

Sablan invited the Rota business community to join the SCC Tourism and Com-

merce committee meeting today, Monday, where the committee will discuss and share ideas on actions regarding the touchback legislation, CW-1

quota reset legislation, current CW-1 and visa regulations and processes, among other items.

Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog, who was also a special guest,

shared infrastructure plans for the municipality, which include plans under the Capital Improvement Program, FEMA/Public Assistance, Local appropriation, and CNMI SCORP.

Other plans shared included the different grant proposals submitted and in progress for the island, current issues, as well as ongoing plans by the former mayor, Efraim Atalig.

Hocog said she is collaborating with Northern Marianas Technical Institute CEO Jodina Attao in developing certification of instructors on Rota so they may gain certified instructors and begin offering certifications for various trades needed on the island.

For more information on the Rota Chamber of Commerce and how to join, contact their board treasurer Jackie Manglona at (670) 285-3559. (*Saipan Tribune/PR*)



From left, Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Kim Camacho, SCC board director Alex Sablan, Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog, Rota Chamber of Commerce board director Pedro Dela Cruz, RCC president Steven McCoy, RCC treasurer Jackie Manglona, RCC secretary Dana Calvo, RCC board director Kaye Christian, and RCC vice president Juan Pan Guerrero.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ORDNANCE DETONATION

Members of Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Department of Public Safety, and residents look on as World War II-era ordnance was detonated in Marpi last Friday.

WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE



GUAM & COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WEBEX MEETING MARCH 14, 2023

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Honolulu Regional Office - Public Contact Team

Will host a Virtual Benefits Workshop for Veterans, Family Members, Surviving Spouses, and Community Providers
on
TUESDAY MARCH 14, 2023

From
4PM-6PM (GUAM & CNMI LOCAL TIME)

To participate please join us in Cisco Webex by clicking or copying and pasting the below links into your browser:

<https://veteransaffairs.webex.com/veteransaffairs/j.php?MTID=m7b9214cdd3e02d5b1c6f24de1e0ca97f>



You can join via Computer, Phone Audio (1-833-558-0712, Access Code:27601727929##), or Webex Mobile App. Meeting Password: N8zDyTv2b@2

Benefits Workshop Topics:

Compensation, Service Connection, Pension, Homeless, COD, MST, Women Veterans, Education & Training, Veteran Readiness & Employment, PACT Act, Home Loan Guaranty, DIC, Survivors' Pension, & Burial and Plot Internment Allowance

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNIMPORTS.COM

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. in the CPA Conference Room, second floor of the Captain George M. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan on Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - 1. Call to Order
 - 3. Adoption of Agenda
 - 2. Roll Call
 - 4. Adoption of Minutes (February 21, 2022)
- II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)
- III. CORRESPONDENCES
- IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - 1. Financial Affairs Committee (with Grants and Internal Auditor Reports)
 - 2. Airport Facilities Committee
- V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- VI. OLD BUSINESS:
 - 1. Request for Proposal for Owner Engineer Agent
 - 2. Saipan Shipping Lease
 - 3. CPA Employee Handbook
 - 4. Drug Policy
 - 5. Supervisor Evaluation
 - 6. Desk Audit/Performance Audit
 - 7. No Smoking and Betelnut Chewing Policy
 - 8. Board Resolution 2023-02: Appreciation for Airlines
 - 9. Echo Dock
 - 10. Supplemental Budget Request: Rota Tractor & Mower
- VII. NEW BUSINESS:
 - 1. Micronesian Air Cargo Services
 - 2. Huang Shun Lease
 - 3. For Adoption: Procurement Rules and Regulations-Small Purchases
 - 4. Saipan Airport Commuter Terminal Construction Change Order No. 1
- VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
 - Legal Counsel Reports: Legal matters/Litigation
- IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS
- X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom. Zoom link: Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

KIMBERLY KING-HINDS
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

March 10, 2023

3 Pacific lawmakers meet with scholars' group in Washington

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegates Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-AS), Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), and James Moylan (R-GU) along with former delegate Robert Underwood, met Wednesday with Asia Pacific Islander American Scholars to discuss the educational needs for Pacific Islanders throughout the United States and higher education.

"I appreciate the good work and education goals of the APIA Scholars program, this discussion with their leadership team, and the commitment to education of my colleagues, Congressman Sablan and Congressman Moylan," said Radewagen.

"Our Pacific Islander youth can face geographic and economic obstacles to higher education. It's important to continue to build better access, and keep encouraging our young people from the islands or our islander communities here in the U.S. with educational possibilities."

APIA Scholars is a non-profit focused on opportunities and student success rates for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander students, including partnering with Asian American and NHPI-Serving Institutions and what factors can remove financial barriers and increase success rates in both studies and careers. (PR)



Pacific lawmakers are shown with APIA Scholars group on Capitol Hill.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Biden proposes \$537M for US territories, FAS in 2024 budget

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Biden-Harris administration on Friday released the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2024, which includes \$537 million in funding for the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

The proposal would fund initiatives benefitting Americans in the U.S. territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands and support certain programs for the freely associated states: the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

"President Biden has proposed an important blueprint for our country's future that reflects the importance of science, equity and collaboration in carrying out the Department of the Interior's important missions," said assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor. "The 2024 budget request makes critical, targeted investments in the American people and in the territories that will promote greater prosperity and economic growth for decades to come. For the insular areas, the budget will provide for investments in infrastructure, energy resiliency and security, and promote racial justice and equity in underserved communities allowing Interior to fulfill its responsibilities in the Pacific and the Caribbean."

The FY 2024 budget proposal for OIA includes \$122 million in current appropriations and \$414 million in permanent funding. It also reflects proposed increases from the FY 2023 enacted level of \$4 million in Capital Improvement Projects grant funding to

support critical infrastructure needs in the Territories, and \$900,000 for the Coral Reef Initiative and Natural Resources grant program to address additional conservation needs for all Insular Areas.

For OIA, the FY 2024 budget proposal:

Underscores the importance of Compacts of Free Association

Financial assistance provided under the Compacts of Free Association is scheduled to end after FY 2023 for the FSM and the RMI and after FY 2024 for Palau. The Administration supports renewing the funding of our Compact of Free Association relationships. Con-

tinuing decisions established in the FY 2023 budget, the 2024 budget proposal seeks \$6.5 billion in economic assistance over 20 years to be provided through a mandatory appropriation at the Department of State, and language calling for continued implementation of the Compacts at the Department of the Interior. Negotiations on the expiring provisions of the Compacts of Free Association continue, underscoring the importance of these bilateral relationships. The Administration intends to submit a legislative proposal to Congress upon completion of these negotiations later this year. The United States remains committed to its long-

standing partnerships with the governments and the people of the freely associated states as we work together to promote a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Proposes support for Compact migrants

With mandatory appropriations for Compact Impact (authorized under the 2003

Compacts of Free Association Act) also expiring after FY 2023, the proposed FY 2024 budget discontinues the smaller discretionary supplement to the mandatory funds for Compact Impact. The Administration supports allowing Compact migrants to become eligible for key federal social safety net programs while residing in the United States, as a long-term solution to the financial impacts of Compact

migrants on state and territorial governments. The matter requires congressional review and approval.

For more information on the President's FY 2024 budget, visit: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/>.

For the Department of the Interior's FY 2024 Budget in Brief, visit:

[https://www.doi.gov/budget/appropriations/2024\(DOI\)](https://www.doi.gov/budget/appropriations/2024(DOI))

**DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB23-RT-DCCA/DYS-42300033**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 27, 2023 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

**"Office Building/Space for DCCA,
Division of Youth Services Rota"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT HORIZON BLDG, GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA, VIVIAN T. SABLAM AT (670) 237-1003

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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**/S/ VIVIAN T. SABLAM
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA**

**/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.**

CHCC MOBILE OUTREACH CLINIC SCHEDULE

MARCH 02 11	ADULT WELLNESS CHECK Update on personal medical history, blood pressure check, glucose check, resources & referrals Karidat, Chalan Kanoa at 8AM - 11:30 AM System of Care, San Antonio at 8AM - 11:30 AM
MARCH 08 17	WOMANS WELLNESS CHECK For women who haven't seen a healthcare provider longer than 1 year, pap smears, breast exams, pre/post partum care, resources & referrals Multi-purpose Center, Susupe at 8AM - 11:30 AM Building No. 1223, Capitol Hill at 8AM - 11:30 AM (CNMI Women's Association Inside & Outside Market)
MARCH 15 23	CHILD WELLNESS CHECK For children 0-17 years old. Measurements and growth, anticipatory guidance, resources & referrals Dan Dan Children's Park at 1PM - 4:30PM Welcome Supermarket, San Roque at 1PM - 4:30PM

WHAT TO BRING:

- INSURANCE CARD
(medicaid, private insurances accepted)
- VALID PHOTO ID
(drivers license, passport, mayors ID, etc)

Visit www.chcc.health for full CHCC schedule
Follow us   @cnmichcc for updates

Further Questions?
Call 670-234-8950 ext. 2016 or 670-287-9929/9927

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

First Amendment is under siege from all sides

Hostility to the First Amendment is a bipartisan endeavor. Too many elected officials take an oath to uphold the Constitution without having bothered to read the document.

The Orlando Sentinel reported this week that a Florida lawmaker of Republican persuasion has offered a bill to require bloggers to register with the government or face fines. The proposal excludes print journalists but mandates that all others who write about the governor, state officials or lawmakers provide information to the state about whether they are being paid and who is paying them.

The sponsor, state Sen. Jason Brodeur, who represents a district near Orlando, argues the bill is "an electioneering issue, not a free speech issue" and will provide voters with information about who is attempting to influence public policy.

That's weak tea. It may be news to Brodeur, but electioneering enjoys free speech protections.

"The idea that bloggers criticizing a politician should register with the government is insane," Newt Gingrich tweeted. He's correct, of course.

Yet "good government" types, many on the left, have for years demanded that interest groups engaging in political activity register with the government or face legal consequences. The archives are littered with examples of grassroots organizers—and even radio talk show hosts—becoming entangled in byzantine campaign finance laws regulating expenditures and political activism. In 1995, for instance, the U.S. Supreme Court was forced to step in when Ohio officials fined a woman for distributing anonymous leaflets advocating against a proposed school tax hike.

It's also worth noting that a good many Senate Democrats, including Nevada's two members of the upper chamber, have embraced a proposal to rewrite the First Amendment to give federal bureaucrats more authority to regulate political speech, potentially even banning certain campaign discourse as an election neared.

Brodeur's bill is equally offensive, a blatant effort to intimidate potential critics into silence. "It is difficult to imagine a legislative proposal more fundamentally at odds with our nation's founding spirit than requiring citizens and journalists to register their publications with the government under pain of fines," a spokesperson for the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression told businessinsider.com.

On Tuesday, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis did the right thing. "That's not anything I've ever supported, I don't support," he said in reference to the blogger plan, according to The Floridian. "I've been very clear on what we are doing." Brodeur should apologize and then send his ridiculous bill through the shredder.



Governments should compete for residents, not businesses

Amazon.com Inc.'s pause of its plans to expand its second headquarters in Northern Virginia reflects some deep underlying trends—not just for metropolitan Washington, where I live, but for regional development more generally.

First, with the end of the U.S. Federal Reserve's zero interest rate policy, many developments are being canceled or postponed. Long-term projects are less profitable than they used to be, and capital is harder to come by. As the major technology companies lose market value, their urban and suburban refurbishment plans become less of a priority.

Over the last 15 years, many U.S. cities—Austin, Miami, Nashville and Boise, to name a few—have become far more "business-friendly," to use a term, and have in fact attracted many new businesses. This process may well be at an end. U.S. regions may be entering a new era in which they simply try to maintain what they have, or manage their decline.

Northern Virginia is a very wealthy and livable area, and for decades it has strived to move beyond its reputation as just a suburb of the nation's capital. That pretense is likely now over. While the region is highly educated, it isn't well-suited to being a tech center. The prevailing ethos is federal power, with a healthy dose of suburban retail—not radical innovation.

The cultural norm in Silicon Valley is to share aid and information. Here the cultural norm is to hoard information. The major status markers are those of government and real estate, not the ability to build scalable software. When local tech companies do succeed, often the federal government is their main customer.

In other words, this area is going to stay "as is."

This stasis is further enforced by the growing difficulty of courting corporations. If Amazon stiffens Northern Virginia, future politicians elsewhere may be less eager to promise tax breaks and infrastructure investments, not to mention spend their reputational capital. Politically speaking, it will be harder for urban and suburban leaders to rise to the top by attracting new major corporate tenants. "Pro-business" local governments may be less common in the years to come.

Another relevant trend is the work-from-home and hybrid models. Why should a major corporation invest in more office space if a lot of that space will be used only part of the time?

It is worth thinking through how remote and hybrid work will affect regional evolution. There have already been "booms" in some relatively small resort areas, such as parts of Maine, Long Island and West Virginia. But there will be a more general im-

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg Opinion



Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. He is coauthor of Talent: How to Identify Energizers, Creatives, and Winners Around the World.

pact as well. To the extent corporations give up on clustering their talent in big office buildings, people will spread out where they live. Not everyone will set down stake in the Hamptons or along the Irish coast. Plenty of people will want to live near family or where they were born, or perhaps a few hours away from the main office as part of a hybrid arrangement.

In this new world, it will be much harder for a well-governed region to rise to the top. Even if its leaders succeed in convincing a company to relocate, for instance, there may be fewer workers who do so. Or perhaps there will be the same number of workers but they will come into the office less frequently and live scattered in many directions, sometimes in other states or metropolitan areas.

There is nothing necessarily wrong with this outcome. But the potential parvenu region just won't feel that exciting, and the level of activity won't feed upon itself in terms of attracting more retail and cultural amenities.

Conversely, it may be harder for regions to fall into decline, at least once the initial adjustment period passes (midtown New York and Washington are ailing at the moment, due to a loss of office workers). It may be less of a big deal if companies decide to move their headquarters from a particular city, since their departure will result in the loss of fewer jobs.

Overall, there may be less competition to attract corporations. At the same time, political competition for residents may become more intense, because more people will be able to choose where to live regardless of where they work. This competition could lead to improvements in schools and parks.

As far as Northern Virginia is concerned, I'll miss the effect those Amazon workers might have had on the value of my home. But I feel pretty good about a possible new era of intense political competition for actual residents.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'Mickey Mouse' Board of Education meeting

Oh, boy!" (Mickey Mouse). I had the displeasure of hearing the audio of the last general Board of Education meeting in full—all thirteen minutes of it. "Live every moment as not to regret what you are about to do" (Mickey Mouse).

With all due respect, the two most senior members of the board, Mr. Orsini and Sgt. Maj. Atalig, need to lay their personal ambitions aside and get back to the work of our Board of Education, a job they campaigned for and asked all of us to give them. No doubt everyone will have their own opinions, but mine is simple: These two men embarrass and lower themselves by their egocentric view of the positions they hold—this board is not theirs to sully with political gamesmanship and, for the record, it sounds ridiculous to claim that their right to freedom of speech is impeded by the majority asking them to speak publicly and not behind closed doors. "This is it, guys. When these doors open, we got to make a very first impression" (Mickey Mouse).

After months of obstructionist tactics to delay and otherwise impede the work of the board, they had the audacity to show up 40 minutes late for the day's general board meeting (with complete disregard for anyone else's time) then immediately set into motion an orchestrated farce to impose their will on everyone present. If that weren't enough, Mr. Orsini repeatedly insisted for "the vote" on a motion he put forward despite attempts by other members to hold further discussion. And finally, when the vote was called and he didn't like the outcome, he and the sergeant major walked out of the meeting with parting words of something to the effect of "this Mickey Mouse" board. Oh...and the vote they couldn't bear to lose? The two of them wanted to discuss how they should elect officers (a scheduled agenda item for the day) in executive session (in other words in a closed-door session out of the public view), but the majority voted to hold that discussion publicly. I'm no backdoor strategist, but I'd bet the farm they had in mind to extort (for God knows what) themselves into a better bargaining position for the chairmanship—all the more reason for the public to hear what they have to say. "I can't help you with revenge" (Mickey Mouse).

I wrote in an article a couple weeks ago about certain types of people who get bestowed a title or get into positions of authority and suddenly can't see past themselves and forget why they have a title in the first place—adding further, "the disaster that comes with a big head (or an ego) and a title." It saddens me to think that Mr. Orsini and Sgt. Maj. Atalig, by most accounts that I have heard

MY GLASS CUP

By JIM RAYPHAND

Special to the Saipan Tribune

James M. Rayphand is the director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and is a former executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.



gentlemen of good repute in the community, would allow themselves to fall victim to this narcissistic phenomenon as well. There really is no other explanation for their ongoing dereliction of duty to the board and to CNMI's student population. "All you need is a little bit of magic" (Mickey Mouse).

Fortunately, it seems that existing regulations allow for the Commissioner of Education to be able to carry out the functions of the board absent a quorum, so the work of our educational institution does not have to cease due to these grown men's tantrums. Still, they effectively have taken away a critical component of our internal controls or rather our balance of power with the Commissioner of Education to safeguard the system. May Alfred be granted the wisdom to wield his extended authority with due diligence and always with the best interests of our students in mind. "Every child is born a genius" (Mickey Mouse).

Far be it for me to make suggestions as to how members need to conduct themselves, but I will say (though I am disappointed with the actions of these two men) I hope or rather expect both of them to get back to the table and respect the rules of the game they so willingly put themselves into. "Thanks! That means a lot" (Mickey Mouse).

Apparently, some members of our House of Representatives see a problem as well. I saw a clip just today of H.B. 23-20 (To Amend the Quorum and Removal of Members for the State Board of Education) with a request for first and final reading being introduced. "That sure is swell" (Mickey Mouse).

Despite the official number required for quorum, there are five voting members of the Board of Education—1, 2, 3, 4, 5. "Arithmetic is being able to count up to 20 without taking off your shoes" (Mickey Mouse).

Nobody said it would be easy, but please get back to the table and work through your problems like the honorable, elected members of the board that you are... "Happiness is not about having or not having problems. Everyone has problems, but not everyone is happy" (Mickey Mouse).

Private texts confirm: Fox isn't a news network

By JAKE WHITNEY
PROGRESSIVE PERSPECTIVES

The newly released private messages of Fox News stars Tucker Carlson, Sean Hannity and Laura Ingraham, Fox Chairman Rupert Murdoch, and others prove what many on the left have argued for years: that Fox is an entertainment network, not a news network.

The text messages and depositions, revealed in a Feb. 16 legal filing, unequivocally show that the network lied to its viewers for better ratings. What's more, the gulf between what Fox stars said privately and what they broadcast out adds to the growing evidence that the on-air personas of many right-wing stars are largely an act.

The messages were made public in a court filing by Dominion Voting Systems, which is suing Fox for \$1.6 billion in a defamation suit. Dominion claims that Fox committed libel by airing segments centered around the company rigging the election for President Joe Biden. The filings expose two key things: that Fox executives knew Donald Trump's stolen election claims were false while the network continued to push those claims; and they knew that

reporting the truth would hurt ratings.

In May 2021, I wrote an article that argued that many influential conservative pundits did not actually believe much of what they said. My evidence was based on what these pundits were forced to admit while under oath. Alex Jones, for example, admitted during a custody battle that he was merely a "performance artist," so his on-air comments could not be used against him. Tucker Carlson and Sidney Powell, a Trump lawyer, argued in court that "no reasonable person" should believe what they said—that their statements should not be taken as factual. The messages in the Dominion filing support this position.

Carlson's texts are particularly revealing. According to the filing, two days after the 2020 presidential election, Carlson grew furious that Fox's decision desk was the first to call Arizona for Biden. He texted his producer: "We worked really hard to build what we have. Those f--- are destroying our credibility." A legitimate news channel, of course, would be more concerned with providing important facts to its viewers than withholding truthful information for fear of lower ratings.

The Ides of March

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey aka Pepe Batbon Connolly is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

The Ides of March marks the 15th day of March in the Roman calendar. A soothsayer told Julius Caesar one month before March 15 that he would be in danger in the next 30 days. Exactly 30 days later in Rome on March 15, 44 B.C., Emperor Julius Caesar was assassinated, the event recorded by the Roman poet Terence.

William Shakespeare used the line "beware the ides of March" in 1601 in his tragic play, Julius Caesar. The phrase has since entered the English language as a superstitious warning of imminent danger. What follows is the last half of my sonnet "Caveat Emptor - Ignoring the Ides of March" published a few years ago here in the Saipan Tribune. A new poem for the same date follows it.

"Pay no heed to gossips in a town without pity
Wash hands frequently don't panic about the virus
Physician heal thyself the ancient Greek doctor said
Look for ethical leaders and scientific truth to inspire us
Apply whatever common sense is already in your head
Careful what you wish for you might someday get it
Who the hell said it? You might as well just forget it."

The Ides of March? Fuhgeddaboudit

Beware the ides of March? Uh, fuhgeddaboudit
you might best beware of the big blabbermouth
white collar criminals with white shirts full of starch
those who say "truth isn't truth" north is not south
folks who dye their hair green on the 17th of March
many implausible political conspiracy theories
and those who do not want you to ever doubt it

Be wary of eating any food while watching TV
and watching all those ads about personal body
problems selling underwear medicine and deodorant
you don't ever plan on trying them and have no plans
on buying them but those ads will surely give you
indigestion or make you sick to your stomach for free

The problems plagues and pricey cost of any superstition
may substantially deteriorate a healthy mental condition
get off the couch take a walk go swimming at the beach
healthy living and thinking is well within your reach.

Regarding Trump's voter fraud claims, messages revealed in the filing show that Tucker "agreed 'that there wasn't enough fraud to change the outcome.'" He also deemed Trump attorney Powell, who claimed on Fox that Dominion machines switched votes from Trump to Biden, a "crazy person" who was "dangerous as hell."

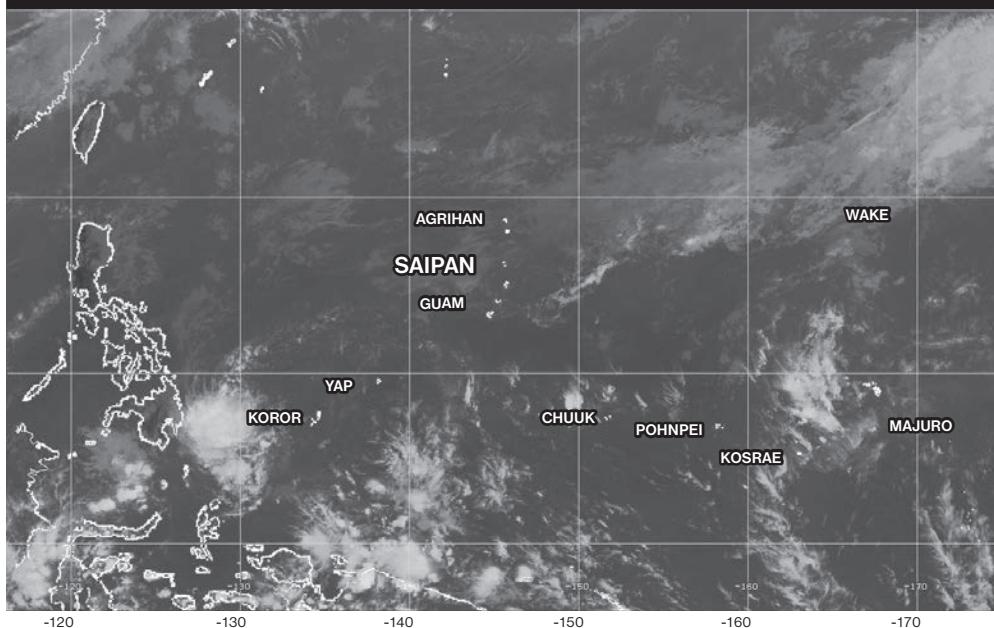
There are plenty of other examples of this hypocrisy in the Dominion filing. Murdoch himself called the election fraud claims "really crazy stuff." Ingraham, writing about Powell and Rudy Giuliani, who also pushed the claims, said "Sidney is a complete nut. No one will work with her. Ditto with Rudy."

Unfortunately, we live in an age when news networks and news shows are expected to be profitable. So it's reasonable that employees of those networks would be concerned about ratings. But when concerns about ratings and profitability trump a dedication to reporting the truth, then it should no longer be considered a news network.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN				
TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Scattered showers. Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
86°	75°	86°	75°	86°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:51 AM, SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows isolated showers within the Marianas Waters. However, satellite shows the showers becoming scattered near Saipan as the radar reaches it's farthest limits. The buoys reveal combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, composed mainly of east to east-northeast swell with a small north swell and wind waves added in.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:26 AM	6:26 PM
Tuesday	6:25 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:25 AM	6:27 PM
Thursday	6:24 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:23 AM	6:27 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:03 AM	11:24 PM
Tuesday	-	10:52 AM	-
Wednesday	12:24 AM	11:47 AM	-
Thursday	1:27 AM	12:48 PM	-
Friday	2:29 AM	1:53 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235-3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	74° / 63°
Beijing	Sunny	45° / 25°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	72° / 57°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 68°
London	Rain	55° / 36°
Los Angeles	Sunny	80° / 51°
Manila	Rain	84° / 75°
Melbourne	Showers	64° / 50°
Miami	Thunderstorms	81° / 72°
New York	Mostly Sunny	47° / 33°
Osaka	Rain	48° / 37°
Paris	Rain	48° / 37°
Busan	Sunny	43° / 30°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°
Salem	Cloudy	50° / 35°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	63° / 45°
Seoul	Sunny	34° / 23°
Tokyo	Showers	50° / 37°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	48° / 33°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET			
5:06 AM	Low Tide	0.91	
10:39 AM	High Tide	1.71	
5:57 PM	Low Tide	0.02	
-	-	-	-

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 1, 2023

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 9:50AM 10:35AM Daily				UA174 8:00AM 8:46AM Daily			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824 7:05AM 9:45AM 1, 3, 5				UA825 9:25PM 2:00AM+1 2, 4, 7			
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111 5:30AM 7:25AM Daily				PR110 10:05PM 3:55AM+1 Daily			
UA193 7:55PM 11:50PM 2, 5 via Palau				UA184 10:55PM 4:45AM+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7			
UA183 8:00PM 9:50PM Daily				UA192 10:40PM 6:30AM+1 2, 5 via Palau			
UA189 12:40AM 6:30AM 3, 6				UA189/174 12:40AM 8:46AM+1 3, 6 via Guam			
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183 9:50AM 9:50PM Daily via Guam				UA189/174 12:40AM 8:46AM+1 3, 6 via Guam			
UA117/193 9:50AM 11:50PM 2, 5 via Guam, Palau				UA184/174 10:55PM 8:46AM+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam			
UA192/174 10:40PM 8:46AM+1 2, 5 via Palau, Guam				UA192/174 10:40PM 8:46AM+1 2, 5 via Palau, Guam			
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308 3:15AM 6:55AM 1, 4, 5, 7				7C3406 10:10AM 3:30PM Daily			
TW9308 3:50AM 7:20AM 4, 7				TW307 8:45PM 2:15AM+1 3, 4, 6, 7			
7C3405 4:35PM 8:25PM Daily				TW9307 9:20PM 2:50AM+1 3, 6			

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, TWay Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (*The Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

MARIANAS SOUTHERN AIRWAYS

INITIAL DAILY FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 6, 2023

SAIPAN TO TINIAN			TINIAN TO SAIPAN		
DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
11:20 A.M.	11:38 A.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12:00 P.M.	12:18 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
3:40 P.M.	3:58 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	4:20 P.M.	4:38 P.M.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
9:40 A.M.	9:58 A.M.	6, 7	10:20 A.M.	10:38 A.M.	6, 7
SAIPAN TO ROTA			ROTA TO SAIPAN		

Women in the CNMI wave to inspire



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Camacho extends aid to CNMI Office of Youth Affairs

The Saipan Mayor's office recently expanded its routine roadside maintenance efforts to include the public lands surrounding the Chalan Kanoa Youth Center as part of assistance to the CNMI Youth Affairs Office.

In a notice to the public last Friday, it said that Saipan Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho's office has received inquiries about beautification activities in the village of Chalan Kanoa and he made the decision to include the public lands surrounding the Chalan Kanoa Youth Center in the SMO's routine roadside maintenance efforts and maintain accessibility to the center, as part of efforts to assist special assistant Delbert T. Pua and the CNMI Youth Affairs Office.

"To allow overgrowing vegetation in these areas will adversely affect the community's access to the facility and consequently impact the Youth Affairs programs aimed to provide various learning opportunities for our youth," the news release said.

It stated that Camacho stands firm in his commitment to people and will continue to assist partnering agencies that provide programs to benefit the community.

Pua echoed Camacho's stance, saying, "Forging partnerships with other organizations who have the resources to assist us in anyway is paramount, especially in these tough economic times, and we sincerely appreciate the efforts of the honorable mayor and his hardworking team."

For any questions, concerns, or inquiries, contact the Saipan Mayor's office at (670) 234-6208. Office hours are Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. (Saipan Tribune/PR)

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystral_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

In celebration of International Women's Day, members of the CNMI Woman's Association and the Office of the Governor's Woman's Affairs Office gathered together with members of the community to wave and show their support of women last Wednesday at the Garapan Fishing Base in Kristo Rai.

"It was truly an inspiring movement to see all women, from all walks of life, diversity, and stories come together and celebrate International Women's Day," said Valentina Rivera, CNMI Women's Association's project director. "I hope it won't just take a day to continue our progress from all issues that we are facing. As Beyoncé once said, 'Who runs the world? Girls!', and from that, I second it!"

When asked to comment on what International Women's Day means to her, Edith Solayao said she sees the day as one of hope and encouragement to all women.

Nancy Zhang said she can describe the day as one that is fun and inspiring.

Shirley Ogunoru, special advisor to the Office of the Governor's Women's Affairs Office, who also joined the waving, said in encouragement to women "Let's take it one day at a time and continue to inspire others!"

1. To follow these organizations, and to keep updated in ongoing events you can follow them @CNMI Women's Affairs Office and @CNMI Women's Association on Facebook, or call 670-237-2200 for the Office of the Governor Women's Affairs Office and 670-233-8978/9411 for the CNMI Women's Association.

Scenes from the International Women's Day waving last Wednesday at the Garapan Fishing Base in Kristo Rai.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2023

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,576,020.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$980,125.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$515,489.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$80,406.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2023.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single-family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 19, 2022.

You may also obtain the application online at www.nmhcgov.net in the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" subsection "Community Planning Development"

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by March 20, 2023, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 20, 2023, will not be accepted.

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

*February 13, 2023, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan
February 14, 2023, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian
February 16, 2023 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota*

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office at the NMC Campus, Building A; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at 234-6866 or 234-9447.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Public Participation Requirement CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM Special Education Program Part C of IDEA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004, & GEPA, the Public School System Early Intervention Program is required to provide at least 60 days prior to submission of grant applications for funds, a 60 day circulation notice with an opportunity for public comment on the application for at least 30 days during that period and provide an opportunity for the general public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of infants, toddlers and youth with disabilities, to provide comments.

DUE TO THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS ON MAY 24, 2023

60-Day Public Circulation Period: March 13, 2023 to May 11, 2023
30-Day Public Comment Period: April 1, 2023 to April 30, 2023

Hard copies of the Grant Applications are available from Monday – Friday, 8:00am-4:00pm at the following location:

Early Intervention Program Office in Garapan (670) 664-4841

Comments may be submitted by fax to (670) 664-4846, hand delivered to the Early Intervention Program Office located in Garapan or phone in your comments at (670) 664-4841.

Electronic copies of the Grant Application can be accessed <https://www.cnripss.org/early-intervention-program>

For more information, please contact Robin L. Palacios, Director, Early Intervention Program at (670) 664-4841.

Business

Kensington Hotel asks customers, 'Are you feeling lucky?'

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Kensington Hotel Saipan is giving local residents a very generous discount this month with the launch of its Lucky March promotion.

And judging by the dohatsu ramen at Loria International Buffet, diners are definitely having the most bang for their buck as the creamy and savory thick Japanese noodle dish as well as their thin-crust pizza, roasted striploin steak, generous salad manger, exquisite smoked salmon and sushi, and



MARK RABAGO

The dohatsu ramen at Loria International Buffet may just be the best noodle dish on island.



MARK RABAGO

Loria International Buffet follows the K-pop philosophy that "we don't know what you like, so we have it all."



Commonwealth Judiciary Administrative Office

Guma' Hustisia / Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 • Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 236-9700/9800 • Facsimile: (670) 236-9702 • Website: www.NMJudiciary.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

**PROGRAM SPECIALIST
On the island of SAIPAN**
Announcement # JVA23-013

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the general supervision of the Chief Justice and under the direct supervision of the Director of Courts. The candidate is responsible for assisting with administrative functions related to local and federally-funded court programs. The candidate is expected to perform the following duties and responsibilities, but are not limited to the following:

- Research sources of program grants or funds at the local, regional, and national level;
- Assist with the development of specific programs and scope of work, including proposed budget and anticipated strategies and outcomes;
- Compile and review information necessary for funding solicitations, applications, or awards;
- Draft responses and reports relevant to funding solicitations, applications or awards;
- Assist with budget analysis and cost review for personnel, operational items, incentive purchases, and other financial factors as applicable to program goals;
- Assist with the draft, review and completion of physical, digital and web-based funding registration, applications, forms, and reports;
- Review, track, and report on internal and external factors related to funding registration, solicitations, application or awards;
- Assist with the drafts of monthly, quarterly, close-out or other standard program progress reports;
- Assist with records handling and funds tracking for designated programs;
- Maintain and improve upon existing paper and digital filing systems related to general correspondence, funding applications, awards, funds status, quarterly and other performance reports;
- Develop knowledge and maintain current updates on program and funding compliance requirements and assist court personnel and program partners in meeting compliance mandates;
- Create forms and fill-type documents for internal compliance controls and assist with training of proper use of documents;
- Monitor program compliance, including maintaining date certain tasks, services and items inventory;
- Adhere to local and federal document and information retention requirements and complies with all applicable procurement operating procedures, regulations, and statutes;
- Assist in the procurement process for program proposals, expenditures, and delivery of services or items;
- Coordinate compliance controls and program monitoring with the Director of Courts or his/her designee to ensure proper fiscal administration of funds and activities;
- Implement audit prerequisites and assist with procedures for funds, performance, or inventory audits;
- Foster and maintain professional network with internal and external fund managers and program officers and maintain registry of contacts information;
- Provide standard administrative support for designated projects as assigned by the Director of Courts or his/her designee;
- Maintain and submit performance tracking reports to the Director of Courts or his/her designee; and
- Perform other duties as assigned by the Chief Justice.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: The Program Specialist must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Must also satisfy one of the following: (1) Have a bachelor's degree from a nationally accredited college or university in public or business administration, economics, finance, business management or accounting or related field; and at least two years of experience in research and writing, responding to and/or evaluating grant proposals and applications, contracts and reports, or related areas; OR

(2) six years of experience in research and writing, general administrative and financial management, or related field.

Must be skilled with the use of computers, internet, general office equipment, and other electronic devices standard to the justice system. Software proficiency is required, especially with Microsoft Office programs such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Candidate must provide current police and traffic clearances and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI. Must have a valid drivers' license and operate a court vehicle. Applicants given a conditional offer of employment with the CNMI Judiciary will be required to submit to urinalysis to screen for the illegal use of drugs prior to employment. "Illegal drug" means a substance whose use or possession is controlled by federal law but that is not being used or possessed under the supervision of a licensed health care professional. (Controlled substances are listed in Schedules I-V of 21 C.F.R. Part 1308).

Education completed in foreign colleges or universities may be used to meet the job qualification requirements if the applicant can show that foreign education is comparable to education received in accredited educational institutions in the United States.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide such evidence when applying for Judiciary jobs. Education received in foreign colleges or universities will be considered if the candidate submits an evaluation of the coursework from: (a) an accredited U.S. college or university; or (b) a private professional organization specializing in interpretation of foreign educational credentials.¹

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Chief Justice. The salary range will be \$30,000 - \$35,000 annually.

INTERESTED PERSONS PERSONS Application forms are available at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court Offices on Kotten Tinian and Centron Hustisia in Rota during normal business hours except on weekends and holidays. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be to:

NMI Judiciary
Human Resources
Guma' Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 236-9818 | Cell. (670) 783-8592 | Fax. (670) 236-9702
hr.judiciary@NMJudiciary.com

This job announcement will remain open until filled and can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.NMJudiciary.gov>

The Judiciary reserves the right to rescind or cancel this JVA at any time without notice.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

¹The following organizations evaluate foreign educational credentials for employment and other purposes. All operate on a fee based on the extent of the education to be evaluated; applicants shall bear the cost of evaluation.
(a) Credentials Evaluation Service P.O. Box 24679 Los Angeles, CA 90024
(b) Education Equivalency Evaluation World Education Services P.O. Box 745 Old Chelsea Station New York, NY 10011
(c) Education Credential Evaluators, Inc. P.O. Box 17499 Milwaukee, WI 53217
(d) International Consultants of Delaware, Inc. 914 Pickett Lane Newark, DE 19711
(e) Foundation for International Services, Inc. P.O. Box 230278 Portland, OR 97223.
While the Judiciary offer these addresses as information to applicants who request assistance in obtaining an evaluation of foreign education, these services are not preferred over others which may exist.

inviting desserts are already worth the price of admission.

Under the deal, the San Roque hotel is offering 30% off on weekdays (Monday-Thursday) and 20% off on weekends (Friday-Sunday) at its three main outlets—Loria International Buffet, East Moon Asian Buffet, and

Ocean Grill Outdoor BBQ.

That means the buffet at Loria International Buffet and East Moon Asian Buffet will only set you back \$43.40 for adults and \$21.70 for children, while the prices for a meal at Ocean Grill Outdoor BBQ is just \$48.30 for adults and \$24.20 for chil-

dren on weekdays.

It goes up slightly on the weekends at \$49.60 and \$24.80 for the two former restaurants and \$55.20 and \$27.60 for Kensington's special barbecue setup.

"The theme we set for this month is Lucky March. We See **KENSINGTON** on Next Page



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Rehabilitation Council

P.O. BOX 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 322-6537/8 • FAX: (670) 322-6548 • E-MAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY 2023 Second General Membership Meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 5:00 PM at Saipan World Resort, Sunflower Hall

Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes of FY 2023 SRC First General Membership meeting on December 20, 2022
- V. Reports
 - a. SRC Chairperson
 - b. Employment and Marketing Committee Chairperson
 - c. Transition & Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson
 - d. Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Committee Chairperson
 - e. OVR Director
- VI. Employer Forum
- VII. Old Business
 - a. Orientation & Training
 - b. Membership Vacancies
- VIII. New Business
 - a. Autism Month
 - b. Appointment of Committee
- IX. Ratification and Approval of Post-Employment Services Policy Revision Recommendations
- X. Miscellaneous
- XI. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters are asked to call Elvira O. Seman at 322-6537/8/9 (voice) or email at vai@ovrgov.net for necessary arrangements no later than the end of the business day Monday, March 20, 2023.

/s/ Preston O. Basa
SRC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Rehabilitation Services Administrators.

United Airlines launches fare sale to Japan

GUAM—United Airlines launched a special 55th anniversary fare sale on its direct routes to Japan from Saipan and Guam, only two weeks after announcing its flights to Japan will significantly increase during the summer travel season.

This special fare offers Basic Economy tickets beginning at \$455 to commemorate United's 55 years of service in Guam and Micronesia, which

United is celebrating now through 2024.

"As we celebrate United's 55th anniversary in Guam and Micronesia, United is saying thank you to its customers, friends, and family in the region for choosing United," said Sam Shinohara, United's managing director of Airport Operations, Asia-Pacific. "As the proud hometown carrier in the region, we enjoy our important job of connecting our

customers to the world."

Customers in Guam can book this special fare immediately for all routes between Guam (GUM) and Japan—Narita/Tokyo (NRT), Chubu/Nagoya (NGO), Kansai/Osaka (KIX), and Fukuoka (FUK). Customers on Saipan can book travel to Japan on United's nonstop service from Saipan (SPN) to NRT, which flies three times weekly between the two destinations.

The 55th anniversary fare is available now through March 19, 2023, for travel between March 10 and May 31, 2023, and is valid for weekday travel for a 21-day maximum stay. Fares are subject to the availability on United aircraft only. Seats are also capacity-controlled and may not be available on all flights and/or dates. Terms and conditions apply.

"As the cherry blossoms begin to bloom and the tem-

peratures start to warm up, this is one of the most beautiful times of the year to visit Japan. Adventure and discovery await you in Japan!" Shinohara added.

United recently announced its 2023 Japan and Guam summer flight schedule, which becomes effective March 26, 2023. United will significantly increase its flights on all routes between Guam and Japan—NRT, NGO, KIX, and FUK—to a total of up to 56 flights a week.

United continues to offer three weekly flights between

SPN and NRT. Flight schedules are subject to change without advance notice. Customers are encouraged to book their flights through united.com, the United app, through local travel agents, or at United's City Ticket Office in Tiyan.

United reminds customers that Early Check-in service is available for all Guam travelers who are leaving on early morning flights. Passengers can check in the night before their flights to avoid long lines at the airport. Early Check-in service is offered daily from 7:30pm to 9:30pm at the United counter at the A. B. Won Pat International Airport, Guam. (PR)

Favoring continuity, China reappoints central bank governor

BEIJING (AP)—China on Sunday reappointed Yi Gang as head of the central bank in an effort to reassure entrepreneurs and financial markets by showing continuity at the top while other economic officials change.

Yi, whose official title is governor of the People's Bank of China, plays no role in making monetary policy, unlike

his counterparts in other major economies. His official duties lie in "implementing monetary policy," or carrying out decisions made by a policymaking body whose membership is a secret.

But the central bank governor acts as spokesperson for monetary policy, is the most prominent Chinese figure in global finance and is in charge

of reassuring bankers and investors at a time when China's economy is emerging from drastically slower growth.

At the March 5 opening of the annual session of China's rubber-stamp parliament, the National People's Congress, China announced plans for a consumer-led revival of the struggling economy, setting this year's growth target at

Last year's growth fell to 3%, the second-weakest level since at least the 1970s, putting president and head of the ruling Communist Party Xi Jinping under exceptional pressure to revitalize the economy.

A longtime veteran of monetary policy departments, Yi was first appointed governor of the People's Bank of China in March 2018, taking over from the highly regarded Zhou Xiaochuan.

Before becoming governor, Yi spent 20 years at the central bank after getting his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois and working as a professor of economics at Indiana University from 1986 to 1994.

He is also a co-founder and professor at Peking University's China Center for Economic Research.

The ruling Communist Party made a similar decision to opt for continuity in 2013, when then-PBOC governor Zhou, who already had been in the job for a decade, stayed on as governor while all other economic regulators changed.



MARK RABAGO

Loria International Buffet's dessert lineup isn't only a feast for the eyes but also for the palate.

KENSINGTON

From Page 12

simply hope that there are moments when people feel that they are in luck. That's why we took it one step further and gave a bigger discount at our main three outlets," said E-Land Group Social Responsibility manager Lindsey Ahn.

This works out perfectly as customers can sample Asian and continental cuisine at Loria International Buffet one day and then try delectable gourmet Chinese fare at East Moon Asian Buffet the next. And if you want the outdoors while munching on Saipan's favorite food—barbecue—then the Ocean Grill Outdoor BBQ might just be for you.

"They can enjoy our dinner buffet a great deal as they now can expect a nice dining experience at a better price. Each outlet offers not only different dishes, but also different settings and ambience. We want more people to try that. We are confident that the quality of our food will exceed their expectations as our high standards are quite known to the public by now," said Ahn.

And Kensington Hotel will not limit the discount promotion at its outlets to March, as it will run until April 30.

"If your special day or special date is marked in the calendar of March or April, then you're lucky! Also, we often hear from our local guests that Kensington is too far. We wanted to give them more reasons to visit us during weekdays, so we're giving bigger discounts during weekdays,"

that comes to mind is their dessert line.

she added. For more reservations or for more information on Kensington Hotel's Lucky March promotion, call (670) 322-3311.

**DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB23-TIQ-DCCA/DYS-42300035**

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 27, 2023 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

**"Office Building/Space for DCCA,
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**/S/ VIVIAN T. SABLAR
ACTING SECRETARY OF DCCA**

**/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
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NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that there will be Board Committee Meetings on Thursday, March 16, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, second floor of the Captain George M. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan on Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

COMMITTEE AGENDAS

AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (February 21, 2023)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 - 1. Solar Request for Proposal (RFP) Status Report
 - 2. Public-Private Partnership
 - 3. Request for Proposal for Owner Engineer Agent
 - 4. Board Resolution 2023-02: Appreciation for Airlines
- IV. New Business:
 - 1. Micronesian Air Cargo Services
 - 2. Updated Airport Facilities Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (February 21, 2023)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 - 1. CPA Employee Handbook
 - 2. Drug Policy
 - 3. Supervisor Evaluation
 - 4. Desk Audit/Performance Audit
 - 5. No Smoking and Betelnut Chewing Policy
- IV. New Business:
 - 1. Updated Personnel Affairs Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

SEAPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (February 21, 2023)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 - 1. Echo Dock
- IV. New Business:
 - 1. Huang Shun Lease
 - 2. Updated Seaport Facilities Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (February 21, 2023)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business:
 - 1. Audit Corrective Action Update
 - 2. Transition Committee Report
 - 3. Supplemental Budget Request: Rota Tractor & Mower
- IV. New Business:
 - 1. For Adoption: Procurement Rules and Regulations- Small Purchases
 - 2. Saipan Airport Commuter Terminal Construction Change Order No. 1.
 - 3. Updated Financial Affairs Committee Report
 - a. Grants Report
 - b. Internal Auditor Report
- V. Executive Session
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. A time limit may be imposed. Video Conferencing is also available via Zoom. Zoom link: Meeting ID: 898 0318 0837 Passcode: 573227

Barrie C. Toves Airport Facilities Chair	Ramon A. Tebuteb Financial Affairs Chair	Pete P. Reyes Seaport Facilities Chair	Joseph M. Diaz Personnel Affairs Chair
Port of Saipan PO Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 664-3550/8 Fax: (670) 322-4710		Benjamin Teisacan Manglona International Airport PO Box 561, Rota, MP 96951 Tel: (670) 433-9294 Fax: (670) 233-0790	

Health and Wellness

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Game-changing treatment for CKD could slow down disease's progress

By DEB BALZER
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

About 15% of adults in the U.S. are estimated to have chronic kidney disease—that's about 37 million people.

What if those people could be treated with medication that could slow the progression of their disease, and help avoid the need for di-

alysis and kidney transplantation altogether?

Dr. Naim Issa, a Mayo Clinic transplant nephrologist says there is a class of medications to help people with chronic kidney disease that does just that. He says Mayo Clinic has been incorporating these medications to help patients for the last few years.

Most people don't have

symptoms of chronic kidney disease until it's at an advanced stage.

"Early detection of chronic kidney disease may help us actually treat and prevent patients ahead of time before the need for dialysis or kidney transplantation," says Dr. Issa.

He says a new class of drugs, SGLT2 inhibitors, is being called a game changer.

The drugs were originally designed to treat diabetes—a main cause of chronic kidney disease.

Medicines in the SGLT2 inhibitor class include canagliflozin, dapagliflozin and empagliflozin.

"In large trials, we observed groundbreaking success with those medications in slowing down the progression of

chronic kidney disease, to the extent of avoiding dialysis and the need for kidney transplantation," Dr. Issa says.

The medications are used whether the patient is diabetic or not.

"They are actually game-changer medications that help us prevent the progression of chronic kidney disease," says Dr. Issa.

You can help yourself by following a low-sodium, moderate-protein diet, avoid smoking and getting plenty of exercise.

Dr. Issa says it is important that patients with chronic kidney disease work with their primary care physician and health care team to monitor and check blood pressure, urine analysis and bloodwork.

\$35 for insulin? What to know about Eli Lilly's price slash for diabetic medicine

By MICHELLE MARCHANTE
MIAMI HERALD

Eli Lilly plans to slash the cost of some of its most popular insulin drugs later this year for people with and without insurance, in a move that could make the lifesaving medication more affordable for some patients living with diabetes.

The company is capping the out-of-pocket cost of its insulin at \$35 a month for people who have private insurance or Medicare and for people without insurance who are enrolled in its Insulin Value Program, CNN reports.

Lilly is also planning to cut the list prices for some of its most popular, albeit older, insulin products by 70% or more, starting in October.

Here's what to know:

Which insulin will be cheaper?

Humalog, Lilly's most commonly prescribed insulin, and another insulin product, Humulin, will be cheaper later this year.

A 10-milliliter vial of Humalog will go from a list price of \$274.70 to \$66.40, The Associated Press reports, while the same amount of Humulin will see its list price drop from \$148.70 to \$44.61.

The company is also reducing the list price of its authorized generic version of Humalog to \$25 a vial starting in May, down from a current list price of \$82.41 for a vial. The company says this will make it the lowest list-priced meal-

time insulin available.

List price is how much people without insurance or those who have a high deductible insurance plan usually pay. But those with insurance might not notice a drop in price immediately, or at all. "Lilly was already charging insurers only a fraction of its high list price when accounting for rebates and discounts," according to The New York Times.

For people without insurance, you can download the Lilly Insulin Value Program savings card at InsulinAffordability.com to receive insulin for \$35 per month. It's also worth noting that there is a \$35 monthly cap on the out-of-pocket cost of insulin for

seniors enrolled in Medicare due to the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act.

Price of insulin has skyrocketed

Insulin helps people with diabetes control their blood sugar.

There are about 37.3 million people, or more than 1 in 10, in the United States who have diabetes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Another 96 million U.S. adults—about 1 in 3—have prediabetes.

Those who have type 1 diabetes, which stems from the body's immune system destroying the insulin-producing cells in the pancreas, a condition normally diagnosed in young people, need to take insulin every day to survive. Those with type 2 diabetes, which is primarily lifestyle-related and develops later in life,

also may have to take insulin.

The retail cost of insulin has risen significantly through the years. In 1999, a vial of Eli Lilly's Humalog cost \$21 a vial. By 2019, the cost of that same vial was \$332, a more than 1,000 percent increase, according to a report from "PBS NewsHour."

Rationing of insulin

The higher costs have led some people with diabetes to ration their insulin. An estimated 1.3 million adults rationed the medication's use in 2021, or 16.5 percent of those who had been prescribed insulin, according to a November study published in the Annals of Internal Medicine.

Lilly's decision to reduce the cost of some of their insulin comes amid pressure from lawmakers and critics

to control mounting prices.

"We applaud Eli Lilly for taking the important step to limit cost-sharing for its insulin, and we encourage other insulin manufacturers to do the same. While we have been able to help achieve significant progress on the issue of insulin affordability, including Medicare's new out-of-pocket cost cap on insulin, state copay caps, and patient assistance developments from insulin manufacturers, we know that our work is not done," said Charles "Chuck" Henderson, CEO of the American Diabetes Association, in a statement.

"We will work to ensure that Eli Lilly's patient assistance program is benefiting patients as intended and continue the fight so that everyone who needs insulin has access."

How to get the most out of napping

While closing your eyes for a few minutes during your busy day may seem like a good idea, it's important to consider the effects napping may bring.

The time of day and length of time you nap can provide benefits or create problems. Knowing when to nap and providing yourself with a suitable napping environment will produce the greatest benefits.

Consider why you're napping

Before lying down to take a daily nap, you may want to consider why you began taking these naps. If you've been working the night shift or are a new parent, you probably have reason to be closing your eyes for a while. On the other hand, if you feel that a nap is essential to your daily functioning, you may have a bigger health problem that should be addressed with your health care team.

Talking to your health care team is the best way to find out why you're experiencing increased fatigue. The reasons for your exhaustion could be anything from having a sleep disorder, such as sleep apnea, to a side effect from a new

medication.

Drawbacks to napping

Two drawbacks of napping include:

1. Sleep inertia

Sleep inertia can involve waking up feeling groggy and disoriented after a nap. This can become a problem if you have places to be or tasks to complete after you wake up from your nap.

2. Nighttime sleep problems

Problems can arise if your naps are too long or close to bedtime. Try not to nap if you experience insomnia or poor sleep quality at night, as napping may worsen these problems. Short naps are the best when trying to avoid interference with nighttime sleep.

Benefits of napping

Taking naps can provide many benefits to your health, such as:

- Improved mood
- Quicker reaction time
- Better memory
- Increased alertness
- Reduced fatigue
- Enhanced relaxation

When to nap

Did you know there are cer-

tain times when a nap may be more beneficial to your health? Take a nap:

■ If you're experiencing new fatigue, but monitor your symptoms and discuss any concerns with your health care team.

■ If you're about to experience sleep loss, such as a long travel day or workday.

■ If you want to make naps a part of your daily routine. In this situation, have a planned time of day and length of time to keep your schedule on track.

Best way to nap

Here are four tricks to make your naps more effective:

1. Set aside an allotted amount of time.

If you wake up feeling groggy after a nap, you're sleeping too long. The ideal nap length is between 15 and 30 minutes.

2. Plan to take naps in the afternoon.

The idea time to nap is around 2 p.m. or 3 p.m. This is because you're likely to experience a lower level of alertness or sleepiness following lunch. You're also more likely to avoid interference with nighttime sleep if you nap around this time. However, some people may adjust their napping times to fit their work or

school schedules.

3. Create a tranquil environment.

Some people struggle to sleep during the day, but there are actions you can take to help you become more relaxed. Eliminate distractions when napping, so turn off any screens, such as your phone. Find a quiet space with minimal light to improve your naps. Adjusting the room temperature to what is comfortable for you also can make your space more comfortable.

4. Give yourself time to wake up.

Allowing yourself enough time to wake up before resuming activities after your nap is important, as you may feel groggy or less alert.

Talk with your health care team if you struggle with ongoing daytime fatigue. A physical exam or sleep study may be necessary to rule out health conditions that are affecting the quality of your sleep.

Tiffany Casper, D.O., is a Family Medicine physician in Tomah, Wisconsin. This article was originally published on the Mayo Clinic Health System Hometown Health blog.

Healthy Living

All about guavas

Guava, which has been described as a cross between a kiwi and a strawberry, is rich in vitamin C and fiber.

How guavas stack up

Per 100 g (3.5 oz.) serving

Calories	Vitamin C	Fiber
Guava	72	218 mg
Orange	46	45 mg
Blackberry	40	150 mg
Strawberry	23	60 mg

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Guava	72	218 mg
Orange	46	45 mg
Blackberry	40	150 mg
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Calories	Vitamin
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Life & Style

Oscars producers have one main goal: Keep you entertained

By LINDSEY BAHR

AP FILM WRITER

The opening of the 95th Academy Awards on Sunday is going to be a "moment," the show's producers promise.

They won't say what exactly it is — A montage? A Billy Crystal-inspired skit where Jimmy Kimmel pretends to be in all the best picture nominees? A secret performance? Tom Cruise landing a jet atop the Dolby Theatre?

It will not, however, include Lady Gaga—the best original song nominee is currently in the midst of production on the "Joker" sequel.

But Glenn Weiss and Ricky Kirshner, this year's executive producers and showrunners, are certain that it's going to pull audiences in and keep them engaged for the duration.

Both Weiss and Kirshner are live television veterans.

They've done the Grammys, Tonys, Emmys, the Super Bowl and even a presidential inauguration. But the Oscars is a first for Kirshner.

"There's only a few shows on the bucket list," Kirshner said. "I needed to go for the awards show EGOT."

Still, it's a job not everyone is cut out for. One might even wonder why Weiss, who was the director of the show when both Envelopegate and

The Slap happened, would want to put himself through it again.

"I think part of what scares a lot of people away from what I love about live television is having to think on your feet and keep moving forward and changing despite what's in the script," Weiss said. "A lot of directors are all about what's in the script. I think my energy comes from leaving that script and going

forward. Any particular incident aside, I really love the thrill of live television."

Their goal this year is to celebrate a great year of movies. And it doesn't hurt that they have several billion-dollar blockbusters in the mix, with "Top Gun: Maverick" and "Avatar: The Way of Water" both up for best picture. And though their involvement was decided much earlier than usual, it always ends up being a race to the finish: There's

only so much planning that can be done before they know who the nominees are.

"I really think that the nominations have put so much interesting material in front of us," Weiss said. "We want to keep the audience who have seen these movies really wanting to see more and wanting to learn more about the creators. We're here celebrating the movies. We're celebrating the moviemakers both in front of and behind the camera."

No verdict yet in trial of XXXTentacion's accused killers

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Jurors in the trial of three men accused of murdering rising rap star XXXTentacion outside a motorcycle dealership nearly five years ago failed to reach a verdict Friday, meaning they will resume next week.

The jury deliberated for about five hours Friday, bringing the total to about 10 hours since getting the case late Wednesday. The panel of 12 will return to court Monday.

They made their first request of Circuit Judge Michael Usan on Friday, asking to see a transcript of the statement alleged ringleader Dedrick Williams gave detectives after his arrest. None was presented at trial, so they were told to rely on their recollection of what detectives testified about it.

Accused shooter Michael Boatwright, 28, Williams, 26, and accused second gunman Trayvon Newsome, 24, are all charged with first-degree

murder and armed robbery. They all face mandatory life sentences if convicted. Prosecutors did not seek the death penalty.

A fourth man, 26-year-old Robert Allen, pleaded guilty last year to second-degree murder and testified against his former friends.

XXXTentacion, whose real name was Jahseh Onfroy, had just left Riva Motorsports in suburban Fort Lauderdale with a friend on June

18, 2018, when his BMW was blocked by an SUV that swerved in front.

Surveillance video showed that two masked gunmen emerged and confronted the 20-year-old singer at the driver's window, and one shot him repeatedly. They then grabbed a Louis Vuitton bag containing \$50,000 that XXXTentacion had just withdrawn from the bank, got back into the SUV and sped away. The friend was not harmed.

Pence says Trump 'endangered my family' on Jan. 6

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former Vice President Mike Pence on Saturday harshly criticized former President Donald Trump for his role in the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol, widening the rift between the two men as they prepare to battle over the Republican nomination in next year's election.



Pence

Gridiron Dinner attended by politicians and journalists. "I had no right to overturn the election. And his reckless words endangered my family and everyone at the Capitol that day, and I know history will hold Donald Trump accountable."

Pence's remarks were the sharpest condemnation yet from the once-loyal lieutenant who has often shied away from confronting his former

boss. Trump has already declared his candidacy. Pence has not, but he's been laying the groundwork to run.

In the days leading up to Jan. 6, 2021, Trump pressured Pence to overturn President Joe Biden's election victory as he presided over the ceremonial certification of the results. Pence refused, and when rioters stormed the Capitol, some chanted that they wanted to "hang Mike Pence."

The House committee that

investigated the attack said in its final report that "the President of the United States had riled up a mob that hunted his own Vice President."

With his remarks, Pence solidified his place in a broader debate within the Republican Party over how to view the attack. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, for example, recently provided Tucker Carlson with an archive of security camera footage from Jan. 6, which the Fox News host has used to downplay the day's events and promote conspiracy theories.

A statement released on behalf of his niece, Noreen Austin, said Blake died from heart disease, surrounded by family at home in Los Angeles.

Blake, star of the 1970s TV show, "Baretta," had once hoped for a comeback, but he never recovered from the long ordeal which began with the shooting death of his wife, Bonny Lee Bakley, outside a Studio City restaurant on May 4, 2001. The story of their strange marriage, the child it produced and its violent end was a Hollywood tragedy played out in court.

Once hailed as among the finest actors of his genera-

Robert Blake, actor acquitted in wife's killing, dies at 89

LOS ANGELES

(AP)—Robert Blake, the Emmy award-winning performer who went from acclaim for his acting to notoriety when he was tried and acquitted in the killing of his wife, died Thursday at age 89.



Blake

tion, Blake became better known as the center of a real-life murder trial. Many remembered him not as the rugged, dark-haired star of "Baretta," but as a spectral, white-haired defendant.

In a 2002 interview with The Associated Press while he was jailed awaiting trial, he bemoaned the change in his status with his fans nationwide: "It hurt because America is the only family I had."

He was adamant that he had not killed his wife, who was shot once in head outside a Los Angeles restaurant where the couple had just dined in May 2001, and a jury ultimately acquitted him. But a civil jury would find him liable for her death and order him to pay Bakley's family \$30 million, a judgment which sent him into bankruptcy.

Boyfriend texts exes on special occasions

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend and I have been together six years. We are both divorced. We plan on being married in six months. He's a perfect partner except for one thing. Every holiday, he jumps out of bed in the morning and takes his phone with him into the bathroom. There he texts his ex-wife and ex-girlfriend. He feels the need to wish them a happy whatever holiday it is. This hurts my feelings.

I don't understand why it's so important for him to contact them. Apparently, they are the first thing on his mind every holiday, or maybe every day. I don't know if I should marry him. I believe he still loves his ex-wife. Help, please.

SUSPICIOUS IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: I will assume that sometime over the past six years you have discussed this at least once with your boyfriend. This means he knows that when he jumps out of bed, takes his phone and hides in the bathroom to text his exes, it makes you feel insecure.

If you really think he may still be in love with his ex-wife, do not marry this person. Because the two of you intend to move on to the next level (engagement), it's time for you to seek premarital counseling. If you do, you will discuss topics such as money, child-rearing and whatever he is doing that makes you uncomfortable.

able (and vice versa). It should help you avoid conflict once you are married.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I live in a small town with a population of about 10,000. There is almost nothing to do here. There is a skating rink, a movie theater and a bowling alley. Since bowling in a league is a weekly thing, I joined one.

Our bowling center has been bought by a former professional bowler. She has formed a team consisting of herself, her fiance, her son and a friend who are all top-notch bowlers. Her son scores in the high 200s every game he bowls. Since they own the place, they get unlimited practice. The lady pro has taught them everything she knows. The rest of us don't stand a chance of winning a game against them. Should I just not care and think of it as a night out, and accept that when we bowl against the "big guns," as they have been referred to, we can count on losing?

It's true that it's not about winning; it's about having fun. But it's disheartening that we already know the outcome before the night begins. There are other leagues to bowl in. Maybe I should join one of those? If we all drop out one by one, I'm sure they will figure out what's going on. Any advice?

AVERAGE BOWLER IN TENNESSEE

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

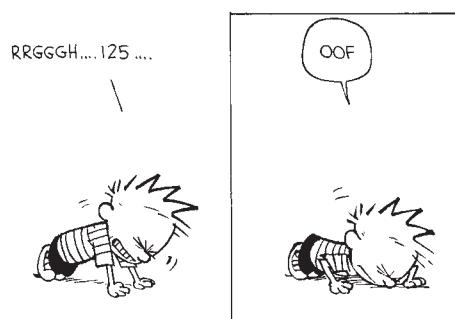
DEAR BOWLER: Talk to the new owner of the bowling alley and tell her how you and the other players feel. This is her livelihood, and she needs to know that it may be time to start a new league of less practiced bowlers like yourself. If she's a good businesswoman, she will be open to it. If she isn't, you and the others should take your business elsewhere.

■ ■ ■ ■

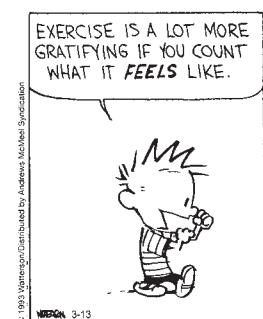
Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

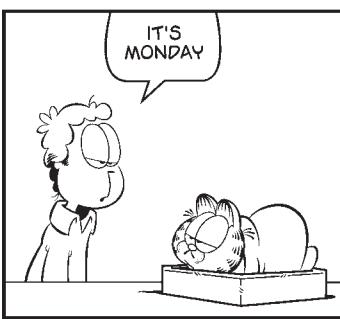
Calvin and Hobbes



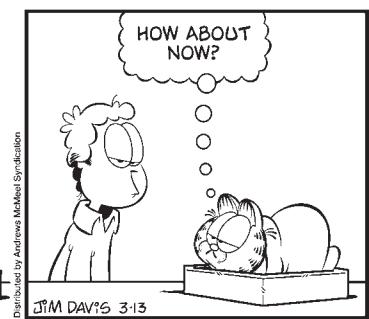
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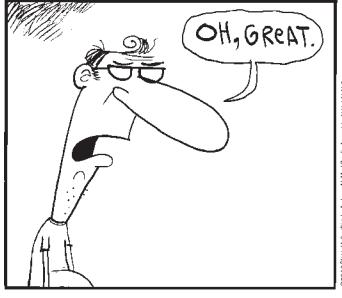


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By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

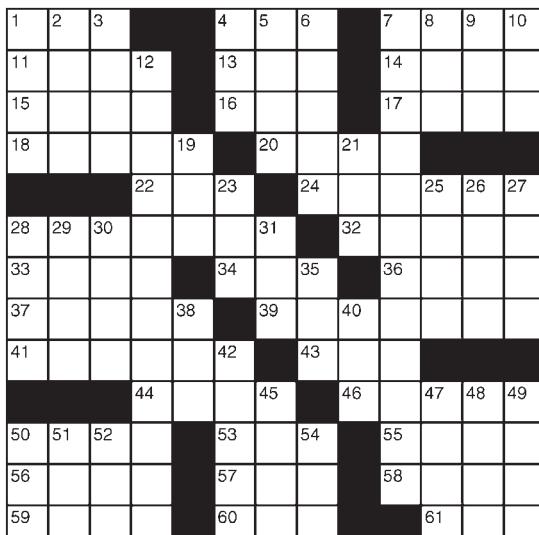
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Moo — pork	37 Laundry woe
4 Leary's drug	39 Freaky
7 Protracted	41 Leather worker
11 Robert of "I Spy"	43 Tyler of "Jersey Girl"
13 "I do," for one	44 Hen pen
14 Emmy winner Falco	46 Rice recipe
15 "Rule, Britannia!" composer	50 Netting
16 — de-France	53 British ref. work
17 On deck	55 Relate
18 Empty	56 Lotion ingredient
20 Campus VIP	57 X-ray's cousin
22 Long of "Empire"	58 Epsilon follower
24 Actress Danner	59 Love god
28 Trinidad music	60 "Delicious!"
32 Heavens above	61 Squabble
33 At the summit of	
34 Internet address	
36 500 sheets	

Solution time: 26 mins.



Last Friday's Answer 03/13

**STUMPED?**

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Adam Clayton, 63; Dana Delany, 67; William H. Macy, 73; Neil Sedaka, 84.

Happy Birthday: Make every move count this year. Be realistic, plan and prepare diligently and distance yourself from impossible situations that will hold you back. Evaluate your financial situation and implement changes geared toward safe investments, saving and managing your money better. Be innovative but practical when dealing with domestic issues and relationships. Be supportive of others, but make your values and goals your priorities. Your numbers are 7, 15, 18, 24, 35, 41, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Take an obscure path that stimulates your creative awareness and helps you recognize prospects you never knew existed. Channel your energy into learning, meetings and negotiating your way into something new and exciting, not to mention financially beneficial. **★★★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll have a change of heart if you discuss your grievances with someone who controls a situation that concerns you. Bartering will ensure you don't lose what matters to you. Nurture relationships, compromise and do whatever it takes to succeed. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If you take care of responsibilities without complaint, you'll bypass an emotional argument that has the potential to put an end to what you are trying to achieve. Someone will intervene and make you look bad if given a chance. **★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Recognize who is on your side before you reveal your point of view. Reworking your

plans to entice someone who can offer something you need will be worthwhile. Your words will determine which door opens and which remains closed. **★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Honesty will help you get the truth from others. Look for opportunities that allow you to use the skills you enjoy to earn a living. Aggressive action won't help you reach your goal, but charm will do the job, and success will follow. **★★★★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotions will surface. Formulate how to approach people who may not share your concerns or plans before you reveal how you will proceed. Consider what others want before pitching your plans and offering incentives that are hard to turn down. **★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Who you confide in or do business with will change the outcome of a deal. Do your due diligence before entering into an agreement that isn't a sure thing. Forgo signing anything until you have a legal expert give you the go-ahead. **★★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Participate in activities that give you a platform to pontificate; you'll get a sense of how popular your plans are with others. Elaborate, but don't hide the overall costs. Money will be a factor when dealing with investments, contracts and spending. **★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Notice what's happening around you. Listen to what others think and how they react to change, and you'll realize what you must do to win support. An opportunity to fix up your space to suit your needs will contribute to your success. **★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Recognize who is on your side before you reveal your point of view. Reworking your

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): How you assist others or a cause that concerns you will help you connect with people who can shape your future. A change at home will make your life easier and bring you closer to someone who lights up your world. **★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your time and effort into doing things your way, and you'll find the success you deserve. Take a unique approach, and you'll spark interest and input, influencing you to make a last-minute change. If you believe in yourself, so will everyone else. **★★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Focus on a different approach to life, love and overall happiness. Make an effort to lift others' enthusiasm with a positive attitude, and you'll gain respect and the help required to get things done on time. Share your thoughts without criticism. **★★**

Birthday Baby: You are original, demonstrative and resourceful. You are persistent and ambitious.

•: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. **★★**: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. **★★★**: Focus and you'll reach your goals. **★★★★**: Aim high; start new projects. **★★★★★**: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

8				5					
2	3	6	9		1		7		
	6		1	5			2		
1	3			8	2			4	
		3	6			7			
	6	4	1	3		8			
	8				2	9	3		
1	4					8			
3	7	2		6	9	4			

Difficulty: ★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer

1	5	7	2	8	3	9	4	6
9	4	6	7	1	5	3	8	2
2	3	8	4	6	9	1	7	5
5	7	9	6	2	4	8	3	1
3	2	4	8	9	1	6	5	7
6	8	1	5	3	7	2	9	4
4	9	3	1	5	6	7	2	8
7	1	2	3	4	8	5	6	9
8	6	5	9	7	2	4	1	3

Difficulty: ★★★★

3-13

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MONITOR YOUR CREDIT SCORE

Solution: 6 letters

E	S	P	A	Y	M	E	N	T	S	R	E	F	F	O
G	T	T	R	E	Z	I	L	I	T	U	N	E	E	I
I	N	A	C	Y	S	O	N	L	I	N	E	S	L	M
N	B	I	L	U	P	E	S	O	S	R	A	O	A	P
S	A	A	T	U	D	E	C	A	E	I	V	L	N	R
T	N	E	A	C	C	O	U	N	T	S	A	C	O	O
A	K	O	G	U	E	L	R	S	A	K	I	N	I	V
L	R	D	R	A	C	L	A	P	D	L	L	U	T	E
L	U	E	D	M	N	V	L	C	P	O	A	M	P	V
M	P	B	E	A	E	A	E	O	U	O	B	B	E	A
E	T	T	X	R	O	R	M	H	C	P	L	E	C	L
N	C	R	A	K	P	S	A	I	I	T	E	R	X	U
T	Y	G	M	S	E	I	F	T	S	C	O	R	E	A
P	E	R	C	E	N	T	A	G	E	A	L	E	R	T
C	O	N	S	U	M	E	R	M	I	S	S	E	D	E

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3/13

Accounts, Alert, Analyze, Available, Average, Balances, Bankruptcy, Calculate, Card, Close, Collecting, Consumer, Debt, Evaluate, Exceptional, FICO, Improve, Installment, Loans, Manage, Marks, Maxed, Missed, Number, Offers, Online, Open, Payments, Percentage, Pool, Products, Rates, Risk, Score, Secure, Site, Tune, Updates, Utilize, Vehicle

Last Friday's Answer: Desperados

The NEW Volume 70 can be purchased online at <a href="http://

Curry leads Warriors to OT win over NBA-leading Bucks



SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Stephen Curry scored 36 points with 22 of those in the fourth quarter and overtime, shining in his first home game back from a long injury absence and leading the Golden State Warriors past the NBA-best Milwaukee Bucks 125-116 on Saturday night.

Curry hit a tying 3-pointer with 19 seconds left in regulation, then blocked a layup attempt by Jrue Holiday in the closing moments. The Warriors got the ball back with 1.9 seconds remaining and Curry inbounded to Draymond Green, who missed from deep.

Holiday had put Milwaukee up on a 3 with 32.7 seconds to play and wound up with 18 points, nine rebounds and eight assists. But the Bucks, playing without star Giannis Antetokounmpo, had their three-game winning streak snapped with just their second defeat in 21 games since Jan. 21.

Thompson added 22 points, Donte DiVincenzo had 20 points and 10 rebounds and the Warriors won at home for the seventh in a row and 11th in 12.

Khris Middleton had 19 points and five assists, Bobby Portis contributed 15 points and 13 rebounds and Brook Lopez 19 points and seven boards for Milwaukee.

CELTICS 134, HAWKS 125

ATLANTA (AP)—Jayson Tatum led a balanced attack by scoring 11 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter, and Boston overcame Atlanta's fourth-quarter comeback bid.

The Celtics opened a six-game trip by having six players score in double figures. Jaylen Brown had 24 points. Tatum added 15 rebounds.

Trae Young had 35 points and 13 assists for Atlanta,

which could not maintain momentum following back-to-back wins at Washington. The Hawks remain eighth in the Eastern Conference standings.

With 1:25 remaining and Boston leading 129-121, Young and Marcus Smart had to be separated after the two were entangled and fell to the court under the Celtics' basket. Smart was called for an initial foul before a lengthy review by the officials called both players for technical fouls and ejected Smart. Young made two free throws to cut the deficit to six points.

CLIPPERS 106, KNICKS 95

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kawhi Leonard scored 38 points and the Los Angeles Clippers pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat New York.

Paul George added 22 points for the Clippers, who have won three straight after dropping five in a row.

It was Leonard's seventh straight game with at least 21 points, and he is averaging 31 points during that stretch. He also has four 30-point games during that span.

Immanuel Quickley had 26 points and 10 rebounds for the Knicks, who have dropped three straight after a nine-game winning streak. Quickley started in place of Jalen Brunson, who was sidelined with a sore left foot. Julius Randle scored 19 despite shooting 5 of 24.

PACERS 121, PISTONS 115

DETROIT (AP)—Jalen Smith scored 11 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter and Indiana beat Detroit to extend the Pistons' losing streak to 11 games.

Isaiah Jackson added 19 points and 11 rebounds for Indiana, which improved to 5-2 in its last seven games.

Isaiah Livers had a career-high 18 points for De-



AP

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) celebrates after making a 3-point basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Milwaukee Bucks in San Francisco, Saturday, March 11, 2023.

troit, which dropped to a league-worst 15-53. Killian Hayes had 17 points and 13 assists.

The Pistons were missing five of their top six scorers; Hayes was the only one in the lineup. The Pacers played without Tyrese Haliburton, Benedict Mathurin and Myles Turner.

MAGIC 126, HEAT 114, OT

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Wendell Carter had 27 points and 11 rebounds and Orlando bounced back from a fourth-quarter collapse to beat Miami in overtime.

Jimmy Butler scored 38 points for the Heat, including 15 in the final six minutes of the fourth quarter when Miami overcame a 15-point deficit. Butler's 3-pointer at the buzzer sent the game to overtime.

The finish of the fourth

quarter included a wild sequence during which Paolo Banchero's foul on a 3-point attempt by Butler with 14.5 seconds left was overturned by a replay.

Banchero had 17 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists for the Magic. Franz Wagner had 17 points and eight rebounds before leaving with an ankle injury early in the fourth quarter.

BULLS 119, ROCKETS 111

HOUSTON (AP)—Zach LaVine scored 36 points and DeMar DeRozan added 27 as Chicago used a huge run in the fourth quarter to top the Rockets.

The Bulls trailed by four midway through the fourth before going on a 13-0 run for a 115-106 lead with two minutes remaining.

DeRozan, who had seven rebounds and five assists,

scored the first four points in the run and LaVine scored the next four. LaVine's second basket in that span came on an alley-oop from DeRozan, and former Rocket Patrick Beverley capped the run with a 3-pointer.

It's the second straight victory for the Bulls, who got 18 points and 11 rebounds from Nikola Vucevic and 16 points and 10 rebounds from Beverley. LaVine had nine rebounds and five assists.

Rookie Jabari Smith Jr. had 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Western Conference-worst Rockets, who dropped their third in a row.

GRIZZLIES 112, MAVERICKS 108

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Rookie David Roddy scored a career-high 24 points, including 17 points in the fourth quarter, and Memphis rallied past short-handed Dallas.

Roddy connected on 7 of 8 shots in the fourth, including 3 of 4 from outside the arc. Desmond Bane led the Grizzlies with 25 points, while Jaren Jackson Jr. finished with 14 points.

Tim Hardaway Jr. lead the Mavericks with 23 points, while Jaden Hardy finished with 22. Josh Green added 21 points for Dallas.

Two of the NBA's biggest stars—the Mavericks' Luka Doncic and Memphis' Ja Morant—were absent from the game. Doncic has a left thigh strain, while Morant is away from the team after posting a video last weekend in which he appeared to be displaying a gun at a Denver-area strip club.

THUNDER 110, PELICANS 96

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 35 points and Oklahoma City defeated undermanned New Orleans for its fourth victory in five games.

Josh Giddey added 19 points and Jalen Williams had 17 for the Thunder, who led most of the way and by as many as 21 in the first half. Gilgeous-Alexander, who did not attempt a 3-pointer, hit 11 of 23 shots and made all 13 of his free throws.

Already struggling during All-Star power forward Zion Williamson's extended injury absence, New Orleans also played without high-scoring wing Brandon Ingram, who entered the day listed as questionable after leaving a game Wednesday with a right ankle sprain. CJ McCollum scored 26 points to lead the Pelicans.

KINGS 128, SUNS 119

PHOENIX (AP)—Harrison Barnes scored 19 points, De'Aaron Fox and Malik Monk each added 18 and Sacramento used a balanced effort to beat Phoenix and snap the Suns' four-game winning streak.

The Kings moved 3 1/2 games ahead of the Suns for the No. 3 seed in the Western Conference playoff race. Domantas Sabonis had 17 points and a team-high eight rebounds for Sacramento, which ended the game on a 13-4 run.

The Suns were playing their second straight game without recently-acquired star Kevin Durant, who hurt his ankle during pregame warmups before Wednesday's game. The team says he has a sprained left ankle and will be re-evaluated in three weeks.

Devin Booker scored 28 points on 11-for-19 shooting for Phoenix. Deandre Ayton had 22 points and 12 rebounds, and Chris Paul added 16 points and 16 assists.

JAZZ 119, HORNETS 111

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Talen Horton-Tucker scored a season-high 37 points and had 10 assists and eight rebounds as Utah defeated Charlotte for its second win in a row.

Walker Kessler added 17 points and 16 rebounds and Kelly Olynyk had 17 points for the Jazz, who outrebounded the Hornets 60-43. Lauri Markkanen had 13 points and 13 rebounds.

Kelly Oubre Jr. scored 24 points and Terry Rozier added 22 for the Hornets, who had their two-game win streak snapped.

Grizzlies tried to address Morant's actions before gun video

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Memphis Grizzlies coach Taylor Jenkins said Thursday that members of the organization had spoken to All-Star guard Ja Morant about his off-the-court conduct before he posted a video in which he appeared to be displaying a gun in a strip club.

The team had been hoping to avoid a situation like what happened this past weekend, which led to Morant being away from the team for at least six games, Jenkins said before Thursday night's game against the Golden State Warriors.

"We have had conversations in the past trying to guide him and help him continue

to evolve as a person and a player," Jenkins said of the discussions before the incident in Glendale, Colorado. "Obviously, this came to a head the other day, so we put this process into action."

Morant, the team's leading scorer, livestreamed the video of himself with the apparent weapon on his Instagram account after the Nuggets beat the Grizzlies on Friday night. Glendale police said Wednesday there was not enough evidence to pursue criminal charges against Morant.

The Grizzlies initially announced the 23-year-old would miss at least two games. Immediately after Glendale

police said they would not pursue charges, the team said he would not play at least four more games.

That means the earliest Morant could return would be March 17 at San Antonio. The Grizzlies entered Thursday's game tied with Sacramento for second in the Western Conference.

"There are definitely steps that are going to have to be met — personally and professionally," Jenkins said, "as he deals with some stuff personally to get better."

Morant's absence comes with Memphis on a three-game losing streak. Reserve center Brandon Clarke tore

his left Achilles tendon in Friday night's loss at Denver, ending his season. The team also announced Thursday that starting center Steven Adams, who was expected to return to action soon, would be re-evaluated in four weeks due to a knee injury.

But Morant's situation has drawn the most attention because of concerns about the behavior of one of the NBA's most electrifying players.

"Everyone wants to know what this going to be," Jenkins said of Morant's absence. "It's the hot topic for sure. But he's taking time. The responsibility to get better personally. That's a big factor in this."

Future of Lamar Jackson, Aaron Rodgers clouds free agency

By ROB MAADDI
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

 NFL free agency kicks off next week and the biggest questions surround two star quarterbacks who aren't on the list.

Will Aaron Rodgers retire, return to Green Bay or get traded to the Jets or another team?

Will Lamar Jackson get a contract offer from any team knowing Baltimore can match it?

The league's legal tampering period opens Monday and plenty of free agents will be on the move when players can officially start signing new deals Wednesday.

Quarterbacks, of course, get the most money and attention.

Derek Carr, Geno Smith and Daniel Jones are already off the market after receiving huge contracts this week.

The Ravens gave Jackson a nonexclusive franchise tag so he can negotiate with other teams. Jackson would make \$32.4 million if he plays this season on the non-exclusive tag.

If Baltimore lets him go, it'll receive two first-round picks. Some teams may be reluctant to pursue Jackson knowing the Ravens could end up keeping the 2019 NFL MVP. But it



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson speaks to the media at a press conference after an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals, Oct. 9, 2022, in Baltimore. AP

only takes one team to come up with a contract structured in a way—perhaps more guaranteed money than Baltimore wants to pay—to snatch the dynamic QB.

"We're always preparing for every contingency," Ravens general manager Eric DeCosta said last week. "We look at every situation—

free agency, the draft. We're talking about any possible situation that might arise with players. In this business, you get surprised daily."

As for Rodgers, he has two years left on his contract and is due to make about \$59.5 million this season. The Packers are waiting on the 39-year-old, four-time MVP to decide his future. He could end up in New York, stay put or hang up his cleats. Until Rodgers tells the Packers what he wants to do, they're in a holding pattern.

"Free agency's coming up here. That's an important part of what we're doing. So it'd be nice to have some answers before then," Packers GM Brian Gutekunst said last week. "But until we have any conversations, we're still in a good spot."

The most accomplished

quarterback among the unrestricted free agents is Jimmy Garoppolo. He's 44-19 as a starter, including 4-2 in the playoffs and has been to one Super Bowl and an NFC championship game.

Jacoby Brissett, Gardner Minshew, Taylor Heinicke, Andy Dalton, Jameis Winston, Baker Mayfield, Teddy Bridgewater, Sam Darnold and Carson Wentz are also free agents. A few could get opportunities to start for teams who are grooming a rookie.

Beyond the QBs, the top players available play in the trenches.

Chiefs four-time Pro Bowl left tackle Orlando Brown Jr. headlines the list. Kansas City's decision not to use the franchise tag on Brown surprised many and now he hits the open market with a huge payday awaiting.

San Francisco right tackle Mike McGlinchey, Atlanta left tackle Kaleb McGary and Jacksonville left tackle Jawaun Taylor are also going to get huge deals.

On the defensive line, Eagles tackle Javon Hargrave leads the list. Hargrave had a career-best 11 sacks in 2022. Denver's Dre'Mont Jones and Arizona's Zach Allen are also top talents.

At defensive end New Orleans' Marcus Davenport and Kansas City's Frank Clark lead the way.

Four defensive backs are among the top-tier free agents set to test the market. Buccaneers cornerback Jamel Dean, Eagles cornerback James Bradberry, Bengals safety Jessie Bates III and Eagles safety C.J. Gardner-Johnson are among a strong group.

Bobby Wagner, Buffalo's

Tremaine Edwards, Tampa Bay's Lavonte David and Tennessee's David Long Jr. are the top linebackers.

The wide receiver and tight end positions are thin. Odell Beckham Jr., who missed last season following ACL surgery, and New England's Jakobi Meyers should get the biggest deals among wideouts. Dallas' Dalton Schultz, Miami's Mike Gesicki and Cincinnati's Hayden Hurst stand out among tight ends.

Running back is deep despite Saquon Barkley, Josh Jacobs and Tony Pollard getting the franchise tag. Philadelphia's Miles Sanders, Detroit's Jamaal Williams, Chicago's David Montgomery and Seattle's Rashaad Penny are among the available runners.

The NFC champion Eagles might be most impacted by free agency. They have 10 starters from the Super Bowl who will be free agents along with several others who played key roles.

"We're going to prioritize the things that are important to us, that we build our team on," general manager Howie Roseman said. "We're going to make sure those areas are strong. Are we going to get all the free agents back? We're just not. We're not capable of getting all those guys back, but we also understand we're in a good situation in terms of picks that we have going forward. We have a lot of guys under contract, not only for this year, but going forward. We're not going to make excuses for the position we're in."

The Bears, Falcons, Texans, Raiders and Bengals have the most salary cap space. The Buccaneers, Saints, Bills, Cowboys and Rams have the least.

It's almost time to let the frenzy begin.

Geno Smith gets the spotlight after new deal with Seahawks

By TIM BOOTH

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geno Smith finally got the payday and recognition that had eluded him for most of his career.

His response? Getting back to work even while he was being feted by the Seattle Seahawks in a way Smith had never experienced in his time as a pro.

"The contract is fulfilling, but I just love playing football," Smith said Thursday after signing his new three-year deal with the Seahawks.

The AP NFL comeback player of the year last season, Smith parlayed the best year of his pro career into a payday that he believes compensates him fairly while leaving Seattle with the flexibility to fill some needs in free agency.

Smith's deal is worth up to \$105 million including all the incentives. But its base value gives general manager John Schneider some wiggle room.

"It's just a way for both parties to make it work," Smith said. "It allows the team room and space to do what they need to do, but it also gives me an opportunity to be one of the top 10 paid quarterbacks, which is

something that I believe I am."

Smith was one of the feel-good stories in the league after getting an opportunity to start after nearly a decade as a backup and it changed the trajectory of his career. Smith led the Seahawks to a 9-8 record and a playoff berth as the last wild card in the NFC as he stepped into a starter's role following the trade of Russell Wilson to Denver.

Smith threw for 4,282 yards, a career high and a franchise record. He threw 30 touchdown passes and just 11 interceptions, completed 399 passes and led the NFL in completion percentage at 69.8%.

"There's a lot of years when Geno had to sit there and wait," coach Pete Carroll said. "The story that has been unveiled about believing in yourself and confidence and trust and never giving up, it's a vivid illustration for (Geno) and it's been so much fun to see this happen."

Smith's comeback season included a Pro Bowl selection and even a vote for MVP. When he won the starting job with the Seahawks, beating out Drew Lock for the nod, Smith was derided as being one of the worst starters in the league.

The 49ers got three of those

Picks are awarded to teams in the third-through-seventh rounds with 32 of the picks based on teams losing more or better free agents than they acquired last offseason and the other five given for minorities hired as head coaches or general managers for other organizations.

The 49ers got three of those

five diversity picks in the end of the third round as rewards for developing Robert Saleh, Martin Mayhew, Mike McDaniel, Ran Carthon and DeMeco Ryans in the last three hiring cycles.

Cleveland and Kansas City got the other two diversity picks for general managers for Kwesi Adofo-Mensah and Ryan Poles.

The Super Bowl-champion Chiefs also got two picks through the free agency formula to give them three total comp picks.

San Francisco got the maximum four picks awarded through the free agency formula, with Arizona and Dallas getting three; Green Bay, Las Vegas, New England, Tampa Bay, Washington and the Giants getting two each, Minnesota and

NFL awards 49ers league-high 7 compensatory draft picks

By JOSH DUBOW

AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

The San Francisco 49ers added a league-high seven compensatory picks in next month's NFL draft, giving them 11 total selections.

The NFL awarded 37 compensatory picks to 16 teams on Thursday for the upcoming draft on April 27-29 in Kansas City, Missouri.

Picks are awarded to teams in the third-through-seventh rounds with 32 of the picks based on teams losing more or better free agents than they acquired last offseason and the other five given for minorities hired as head coaches or general managers for other organizations.

The Niners turned a seventh-round compensatory pick last year into quarterback Brock Purdy, who helped San Francisco reach the NFC title game by winning his first seven starts as a rookie.

San Francisco won't make its first pick until No. 99 near the end of the third round after giving away their first-rounder for Trey Lance and second and third-rounders for Christian McCaffrey.

The Rams added four compensatory picks through free agency, with Arizona and Dallas getting three; Green Bay, Las Vegas, New England, Tampa Bay, Washington and the Giants getting two each, Minnesota and

New Orleans getting one.

Arizona and Washington got the only third-round picks based on free agency, with the Cardinals adding the 96th pick after losing receiver Christian Kirk, and Washington getting the 97th pick after losing guard Brandon Scherff.

Compensatory free agents are determined by a formula based on salary, playing time and postseason honors. Not every free agent lost or signed by a club is covered by this formula.

Chicago and Houston got supplemental selections as the final two picks in the draft because only 30 picks were handed out through the free agency formula.

Over 1,200 complete Triple J 5K Bubble Color Run

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The return of the Triple J

Saipan 5K Family Fun Run/Walk's Bubble Color Run saw more than 1,200 colorful participants—with runners Sildrey Veloria and Tiana Cabrera topping their respective divisions.

The run/walk started and ended at the Garapan Fishing Base with a turnaround just past the Quartermaster Road last Saturday morning.

Runners/walkers were greeted with explosions of colored powder at designated stops along Beach Road then

at the finish line, they were met with more explosions of color. They then made their way to "shower" at the bubble machine—with kids and adults alike having fun with the special feature of the event.

The Top 3 overall male behind Veloria's time of 19:00, were Pony Tang just 17 seconds after, then Kosuke Sato with a time of 19:26.

Veloria was acknowledged for his recent trip down under in the CNMI's debut in the World Athletics Cross Country Championships 10-kilometer run in Bathurst, Australia last month. Veloria said about repping NMI was that "it was scary at first, but I just focused on my training

Team Tomodachi has won the 2023 Roccball championship games held last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium for the second time in two years.

Team Tomodachi defeated the players of Team Nakama in the best-of-three finals for their back-to-back title.

Tomodachi defeated Team Nakama in the first game, 47-32, and won the Roccball championship in the second game with a 44-31 win. In their two games of competition there were a total of 27 two-point aces, five two-point xunks, four two-point backcourt kees, and four three-point goals scored in addition to the one point floor scores.

Team Tomodachi's total score for two games was 91 points. Of those points scored,



LADY

From Page 20

with a final score of 2-0.

Both goals were scored by sisters Beatrice Gross (in the first half's sixth minute) and Phoenix Gross (in the 43rd minute).

The Hilitais, throughout the game, fought hard with their team's top scorers, Yelynn Ha and Alyssa Borlongan, relentlessly attacking the Geckos' defenses and creating scoring opportunities.

MV GLORIA

From Page 20

Masaki Kitami and deckhands Kalama Fernandez and Austin Benavente went home with \$1,500.

Y-Knot completed the Top 3 with a 27.7-pounder and got \$1,000 for their efforts. *Y-Knot* was captained by Alejandro Castro Sr. with Alex Castro Jr., Carmelita Castro, and Ricky

However, it was the work of Geckos goalie Keylie Claveria that stopped a penalty kick from Ha and multiple attempts at the net as the Hilitais pushed to get on the scoreboard. With that, Claveria was handed the championship game's MVP award.

Despite the loss, the Hilitais did not go home empty-handed as they won second place and Borlongan won the Golden Boot Award for the most goals of the season with 20.

The Geckos' head coach April Liske-Clark said, "it's

awesome to finally walk away with first place and going undefeated for the season. We have a couple of 8th graders and everybody else is sixth and seventh so we're hoping for another couple of good years."

With their game against the Hilitais, Liske-Clark said, "Hopwood's an amazing team, so we're very lucky to come away with the win, but the girls worked really hard. They're very closely matched and it was a really good game."

George serving as crew.

Total weight winner, meanwhile, was the *Marilyn* with Jesse C. Taitano as captain and Jesseboy Taitano as the crew. They won \$500 for totaling 61.1 lbs.

Side bet winner for the heaviest mahi was *Mako Pacific* after captain Kiku Hapdei and crew member Vicente Masgareelee in a 25.4-lb mahi.

The 4th Annual Wahoo in the Marianas Fishing Tourna-

ment is one of Tasi To Table's main yearly fishing events.

It is a student-run fishing derby as students were in charge of soliciting in-kind donations, helping with the designs of the marketing and promotional materials for the event (flyers, volunteer shirts, hoodie rashguards for fishermen, trophies), and going on the radio to promote the event, etc.

On registration day, students

The Geckos' lineup consisted of the Gross sisters, Claveria, Faith Arriola, Eliza Culp, Reagan Gonzales, Anne Lee, Malia Rayphand, Aubrey White, and Sage Xu.

In the third place game earlier in the afternoon, the Tanapag Middle School Tataugas defeated the DanDan Middle School Tottots, 4-2.

A total of six middle schools—including ChaCha Ocean View Middle School and Francisco M. Sablan Middle School and 83 players joined this season.

handled processing registrations and payments and getting fishermen their shirts. On the day of the derby, students assisted with getting fish off of fishermen's boats, getting the fish weighed, etc. Tasi To Table Also had students assist with event photography.

Da'Ok Academy's Nathan Bauleong served as event chair with Marianas High School's Leilani Attao as vice chair.



Kids and adults alike enjoy the bubble shower feature of the 3rd Triple J 5K Family Fun Run/Walk Bubble Color Run last Saturday morning at the Garapan Fishing Base. The return of the event saw over 1,200 participants.

Tomodachi is '23 Roccball champion



Team Tomodachi players pose for a photo with their 2023 Roccball championship trophy. From left, Joseph Pangelinan, Juruel Magatalas, Jerome Manzon, Dylan Mister, and John Justo. Teammate Rizza Relucio is not in photo.

it really helped me a lot."

Triple J Enterprises Inc. vice president Mike Sablan, said in an interview, "This is Triple J's third Bubble Color Run. We had to stop because of the pandemic during 2020, so we're so happy to bring this back to Saipan. We were expecting around 1,000 participants but we exceeded that... It was a lot of fun. It was not just a competitive race for those who are working on their times, but it's also just a lot of family fun."

"It's a feel-good type of event made possible by the sponsors and Jones family with the proceeds to be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Marianas March Against Cancer. I'm so glad the turn out came out very nice," said Sablan.

Sponsors of the event were Tan Siu Lin Foundation, United Airlines, Bank of Guam, Marianas Variety, Mobil Oil Marianas, Power 99, IT&E, Ahglow Products USA, Spa Ocean, Latte Built Gym & Fitness, AB Risk Solution, McDonald's, Marpac, Micronesia Brokers Inc., Coca Cola, Docomo Pacific, Island Apparel, Gold's Gym, Sound Hires, Yaong Corp., Ideal Sign, Saipan Computer Services, Matson, and Triple J.

Cabrera, for her part, said this was her third Bubble Color Run and that it "was really good. I just wanted to keep my pace up and it went well. I love these kinds of races because it pushes me and I love the excitement, so

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Team, which provided three gold medals and one bronze was made up of Colin Sinclair, Colin Ramsey, Bobby Cruz, Robbie Schorr, Hyejin Elliott Asia Raulerson, Maria Isabel Heras, and Serin Chung.

Each of the nine sports federations received \$1,000 from Tan Holdings.

NMSA president Jerry Tan thanked all the nine teams that played in the Mini Games. "We wanted to recognize your preparation also. Winning medals is one thing, but to prepare for participating in games around our region—it's not easy."

He added, "It's a collective effort by [all] of you. We did a great job—we were the best host. Team NMI performed exceptionally well."

He also acknowledged that in 2022, not only did the NMI host its first ever Mini Games and did an exceptional job, the NMI athletes also traveled to compete in other countries for their respective sports.

The event was sponsored by the TSL Foundation led by executive director Merlie Tolentino.

Results of the other NMSA Sports Banquet awards will come out in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

